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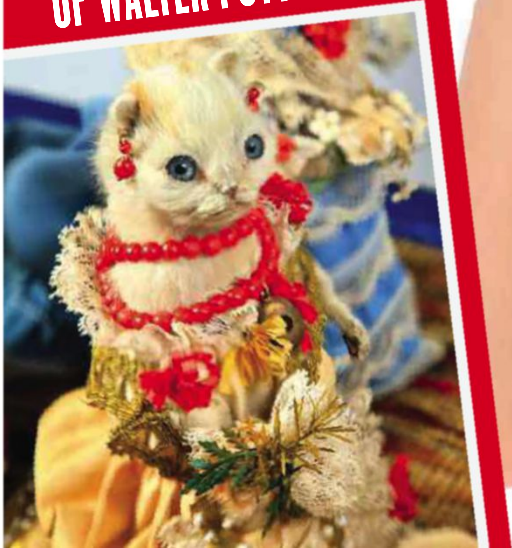

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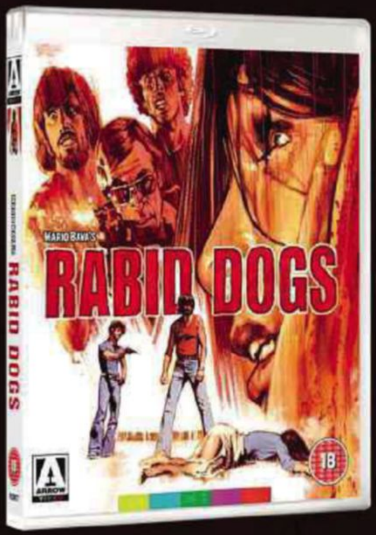

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If you're an alt.model looking for a break, sign up to *Bizarre*'s **ULTRA VIXENS**. It's the easiest way to have your photos featured in *Bizarre*, and you'll be in with a chance of appearing on the cover – but you need to be a member so that we can see your pics! Sign up online at **UltraVixens.net**

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If you want to appear in *Bizarre*, get in touch with the team – including Mandatron, who runs the YourBizarre section – using the following methods:

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EMAIL Email **Bizarre@blackthorncommunications.com** or contact Mandatron directly at **Mandatron@blackthorncommunications.com**

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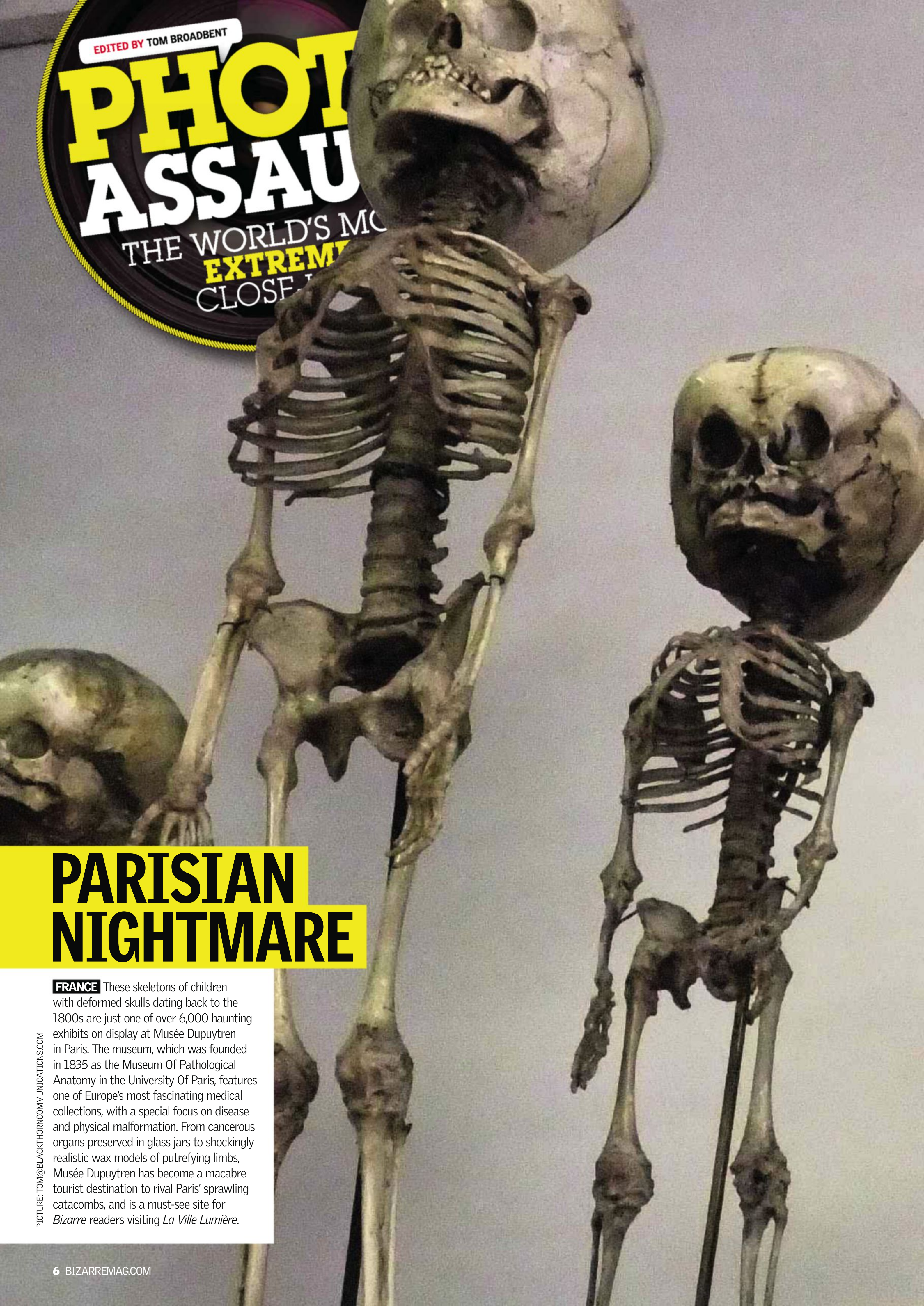

PARISIAN NIGHTMARE

FRANCE These skeletons of children with deformed skulls dating back to the 1800s are just one of over 6,000 haunting exhibits on display at Musée Dupuytren in Paris. The museum, which was founded in 1835 as the Museum Of Pathological Anatomy in the University Of Paris, features one of Europe's most fascinating medical collections, with a special focus on disease and physical malformation. From cancerous organs preserved in glass jars to shockingly realistic wax models of putrefying limbs, Musée Dupuytren has become a macabre tourist destination to rival Paris' sprawling catacombs, and is a must-see site for *Bizarre* readers visiting *La Ville Lumière*.

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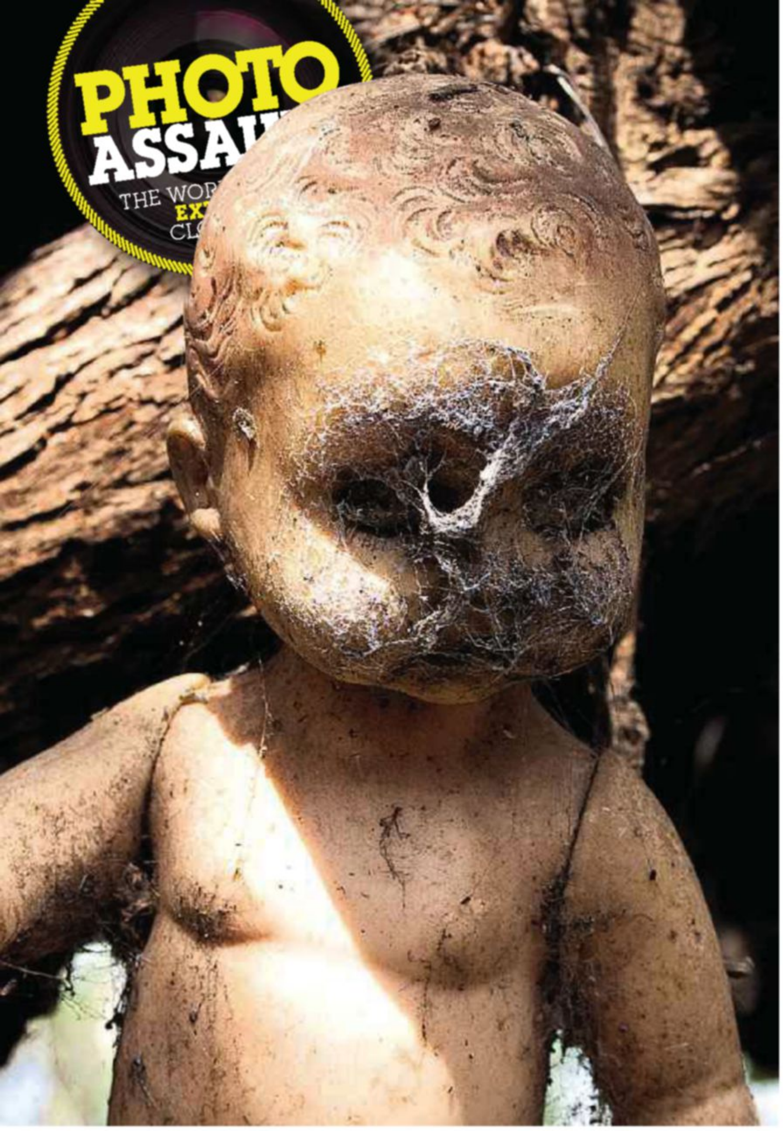

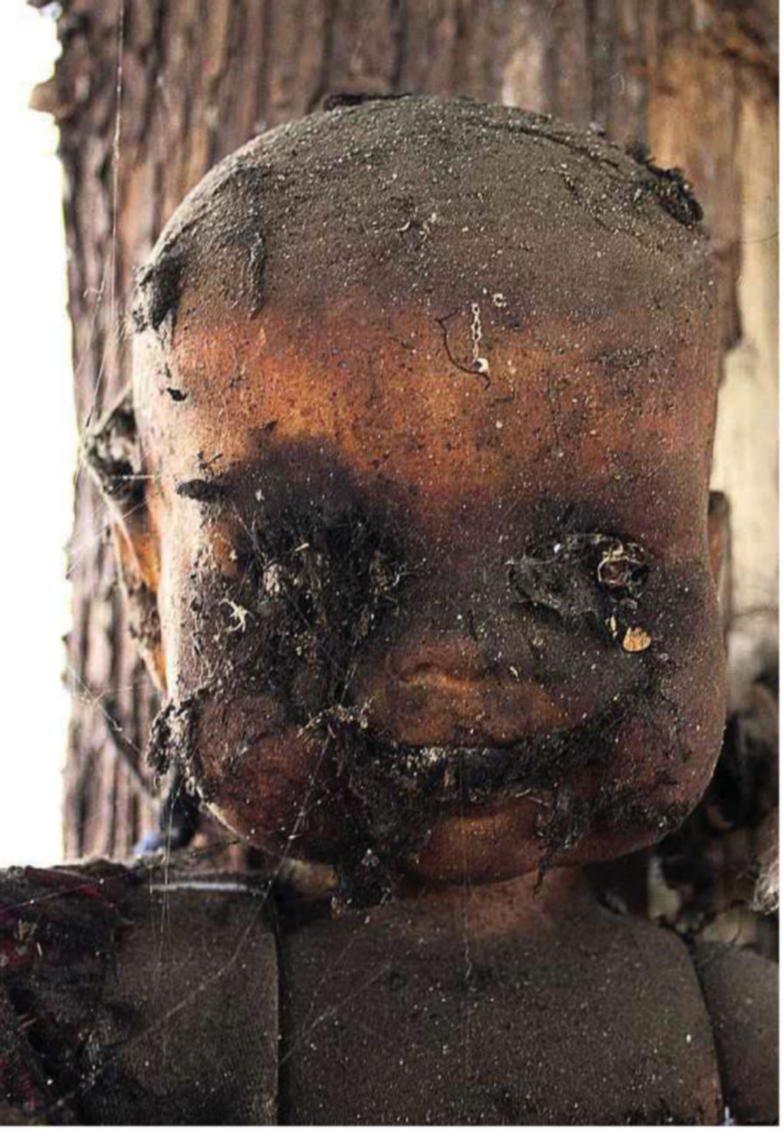

ISLAND OF THE DOLLS

MEXICO Located in the sprawling network of canals that lies to the south of Mexico City, *La Isla De Las Muñecas* (Island Of The Dolls) is one of the country's creepiest attractions. For over 50 years a hermit called Don Julián Santana lived alone on the island, and fished dolls out of the canals that had been rejected or lost by their owners. Santana believed that his island was haunted by the ghost of a young girl who'd drowned nearby, and he began nailing dolls to the trees surrounding his wooden shack as a way to calm her restless spirit. Today, hundreds of decaying dolls are displayed around the island, their macabre faces ravaged by the elements and home to countless bugs and spiders.

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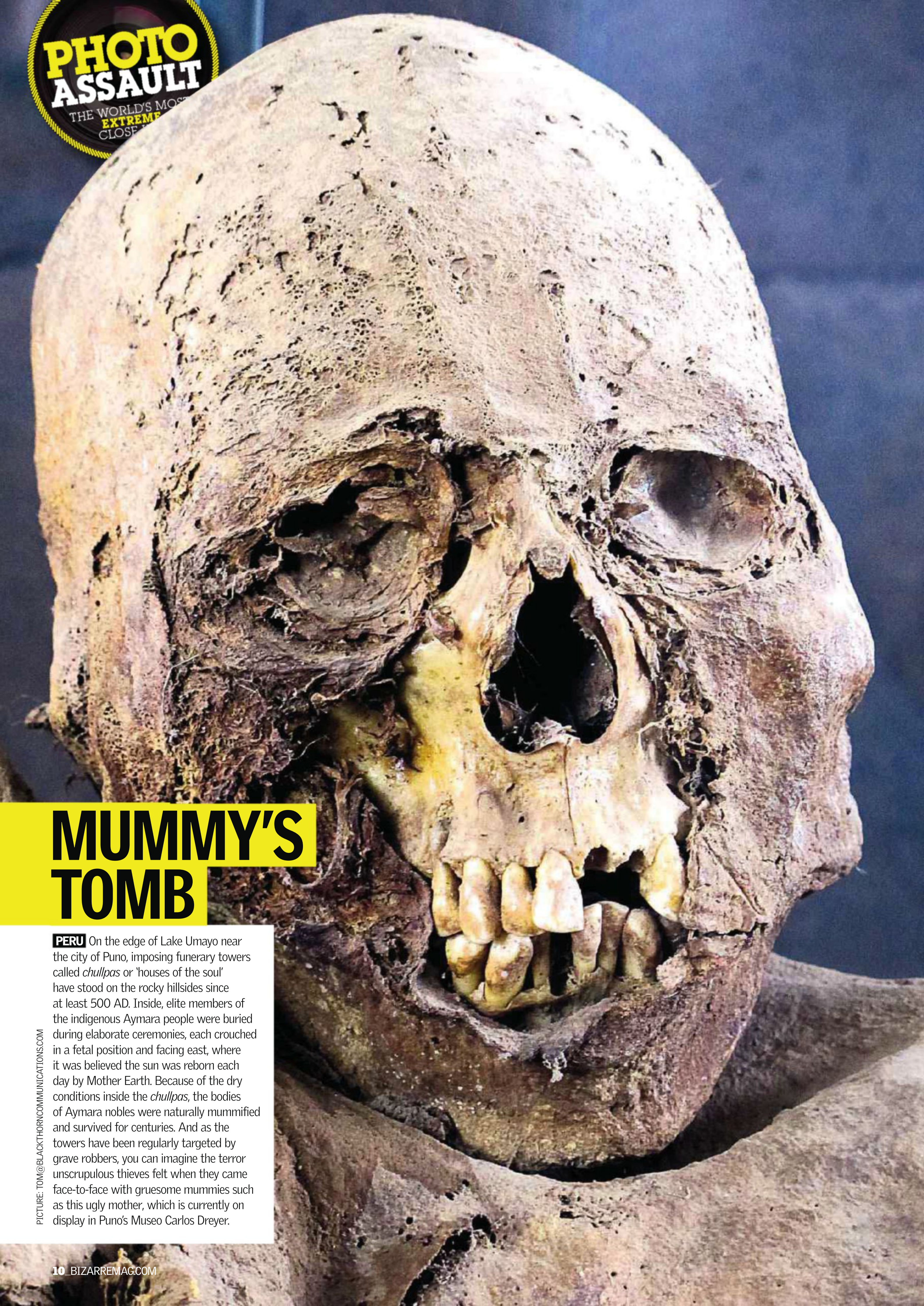

MUMMY'S TOMB

PERU On the edge of Lake Umayo near the city of Puno, imposing funerary towers called *chullpas* or 'houses of the soul' have stood on the rocky hillsides since at least 500 AD. Inside, elite members of the indigenous Aymara people were buried during elaborate ceremonies, each crouched in a fetal position and facing east, where it was believed the sun was reborn each day by Mother Earth. Because of the dry conditions inside the *chullpas*, the bodies of Aymara nobles were naturally mummified and survived for centuries. And as the towers have been regularly targeted by grave robbers, you can imagine the terror unscrupulous thieves felt when they came face-to-face with gruesome mummies such as this ugly mother, which is currently on display in Puno's Museo Carlos Dreyer.

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MONSTER MASH!

Pin-up photographer Claire Seville presents her latest project, which transforms tasty *Bizarre* cover girls into gorgeous ghouls that'll haunt your dreams all year round!

PHOTOS
CLAIRE SEVILLE

AS ALL HALLOWS' EVE CREEPS EVER closer, life gets even spookier at *Bizarre* Towers. Armed with pumpkin carving knives and Trick Or Treat bags, and with our Dracula capes flapping in the wind, we're getting ready to celebrate all things freaky and frightening.

Adding a sexy twist to our favourite time of the year is photographer Claire Seville, who's renowned for bringing out the bad girl in every alt.model that steps in front of her camera. Over the next few pages we're going to showcase one of Claire's most recent and daring shoots, titled *Pin-Up Monsters,* where she's styled some of our favourite Ultra Vixens and alt.models as mythical creatures, ghouls and demons. And the coolest thing is that many of these shots are exclusive to *Bizarre*...

Hi, Claire! We last had you on our pages around Christmas last year – what's been keeping you busy since then?
The 'Bad Girls' feature in *Bizarre 197* gave me great exposure – I've had lots of new people contacting me about shoots and new fans online showing my portfolio some love. I've even been invited to a few fetish nights! Recently I've been busy shooting alt.models and other fabulous clients, while also working on *Pin-Up Monsters* for an exhibition I was part of. For this project I organised a Halloween shoot and gave seven ladies the chance to become a mesmerising monster.

> "I'm obsessed with weird, morbid and macabre shit. I'd love to shoot Shelly d'Inferno as Medusa!"

Where did this idea come from? Did you have a horror movie sleepover with the models as research?
I would've loved a big group horror movie sleepover, but the girls would've had to put up with me cuddling them in fear and hiding during the frightening bits – I'm a scaredy cat when it comes to horror movies, which is strange because I'm obsessed with weird, morbid and macabre shit! The idea popped into my head one night, so I started planning straight away. There were so many monsters I wanted to create that I decided to turn the project into a 2014 calendar. Now everyone can have my sexy beasts on their wall for the whole year!

How did you choose which monster would suit the model?
The models chose which monster they wanted to become. Perhaps that's a little insight into their personalities! I would have loved to create a Medusa – I think *Bizarre* cover star Shelly d'Inferno would be perfect, and I may shoot that another time. I'd love to work with Vanessa Lake – she's a babe! I also love smoking-hot Lauren WK, →

Anna Fur Laxis

Cervena Fox

Constance Peach

SINderella Rockafella

October DiVine

Ruby True

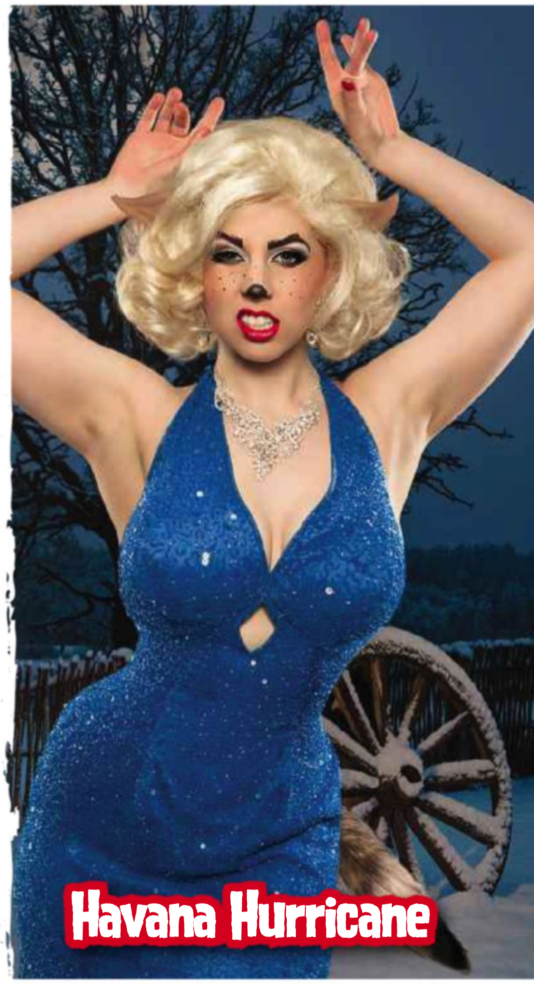
and Amelia Nightmare has such an incredible look. All of *Bizarre*'s cover girls are amazing… I want to work with them all!

That sounds like a great idea! Had you shot all these alt.girls before?
I'd already worked with most of the models apart from Morgana, the voodoo queen (below centre) – she's a total sweetheart, and a dream to shoot. You'll also notice cover Cervena Fox and Ruby True rocking it as a mummy and the Creature From The Black Lagoon. I hadn't worked with any of the burlesque performers – Anna Fur Laxis was my spooky ghost, Havana Hurricane was my adorable werewolf, and Ultra Vixen Constance Peach was my sexy yeti. They were all outstanding!

What's next on the agenda for you?
Working hard and playing harder! I want to get out more and attend a few more events, conventions and fetish nights. A book deal would be a dream come true, so I'll be shooting lots of sexy stuff with that in mind. I'd also like to travel more over the next few years and shoot some international beauties. I'm currently planning a trip to LA, which I'm excited about. Some of the models on my 'most wanted' list are based in the US, so hopefully I'll have lots more to show you when I return.

For more of Claire's work, click on Facebook.com/claireseville or find her on Twitter and Instagram by searching @Claireseville. Check out *Bizarre*'s alt.girl galleries at Ultravixens.net

Jennifer 'Gypsy' Brown



Ruby Fortune

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Morgana

Mrs Invisible

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GORE-IOUS FICTION

British horror writer Joseph D'Lacey describes his top five sickest moments in fiction…

AUTHOR OF THE ACCLAIMED ECO-HORROR tale *Meat* and the equally deranged *Garbage Man* – both being re-released through Oak Tree Press, an imprint of Andrews, this Halloween – acclaimed 'hardcore horror' novelist Joseph D'Lacey picks his five most disturbing moments in fiction, especially for *Bizarre*. These are all proper dead icky, like…

1) FROM *THE FUNCTION ROOM* BY MATT LEYSHON

"Newcomer Leyshon is a sick fuck. I like that in a writer. His village idiots flay journalists alive and his reverse vampires vomit gushing torrents of blood into the Earth in order to avoid exploding. However, the most extreme demise amongst *The Function Room*'s many nauseating tales occurs after a prison break, when a transsexual police sergeant and the escapee she's hunting down both drown in a giant vat of human shit. Full (skid) marks, Mr Leyshon!"

2) FROM *THE GARGOYLE* BY ANDREW DAVIDSON

"At the beginning of Davidson's fantastical tale, our hero has a bit of an accident. His car leaves the highway and crashes upside down in a ravine. So far, so whatever. But, oh dear – the fuel tank's ruptured! He is entirely conscious and very alert when, unable to free himself, the car catches fire and he is burned to a living stump. He remains awake throughout, even when his own genitals ignite and drip scalding fat into his already blazing face."

3) FROM *LET'S GO PLAY AT THE ADAMS'* BY MENDAL JOHNSON

"Your folks decide to take a holiday. They hire a live-in babysitter to look after you. Nice girl: smart, good-looking, whole life ahead of her. What do you? You capture her and tie her up, of course! Then you invite your pals round… bondage, rape, underage sex; this is a particularly nasty tale. It's hard to beat the final scenes, though, in which you heat up a poker on the barbecue and do a few experiments involving white-hot steel."

4) FROM *SHOGUN* BY JAMES CLAVELL

"Sometimes horror comes out of nowhere. One of the most disturbing scenes I've ever read was in this historical novel. Shipwrecked off feudal Japan, a band of sailors are captured by Samurai. They spend their first night watching one of their shipmates boiled in a huge cauldron. Whenever he tries to escape, the Samurai poke the sailor back into the hot water. He's still alive when the flesh of his legs begins to flake from his bones like tender chicken."

5) FROM *HAUNTED* BY CHUCK PALAHNIUK

"The adolescent hero (dumbass) of 'Guts' likes to masturbate in the deep end of his parents' pool, while the suction pump stimulates his anus and he gently asphyxiates. Don't we all? But the suction clamps his ring-piece to the bottom. Fighting his way to the surface, he discovers his intestines are still attached to the pump; having pulled himself inside-out he has to gnaw through his own colon – comparable to chewing a peanut butter-filled condom – to avoid drowning."

Fancy more grisly reading? *Meat* and *Garbage Man* by Joseph D'Lacey are out now

PICTURE: DAVID C FAITHFULL 2013

ZOMBIE FEST!

Keep on rotting in the free world

CALLING ALL ZOMBIE FANS! SLAP ON your gory make-up, start craving brains for breakfast and shuffle your way to Leicester for a celebration of all things rotting and undead.

The 7th UK Festival Of Zombie Culture takes place on 16 November in Leicester's Phoenix Square, and is shaping up to be the best party in the event's blood-soaked history.

Making its debut this year is the Ultimate Zombie Short Film Competition, where visitors will be able to vote for their favourite flick inspired by the antics of reanimated corpses.

Also featuring at the festival will be a Best Dressed Zombie competition, guest slots from horror authors Sean T Page, Adam Millard and Luke Duffy, and a 13-hour marathon of fright flicks. But what *Bizarre* is most looking forward to is the Arcade Of The Dead, where you'll be able to play retro zombie videogames, including the surreal *Typing Of The Dead*.

Goodie bags for the first 250 visitors, spot prizes and make-up artists who'll transform you into an undead brain-muncher also make the 7th UK Festival Of Zombie Culture one of this year's most exciting horror events – and it's only £25 for a day pass. See you there, rotters!

For more details, check out Terror4fun.com, the Facebook group Terror4fun: UK Zombie Events, or contact the team on Twitter @ZombieEdUK

PICTURE: GRACE ELKIN, GRACEELKINPHOTOGRAPHY.CO.UK

TAPPU! FOR YOU

Tattoo app upgrades for more body art thrills

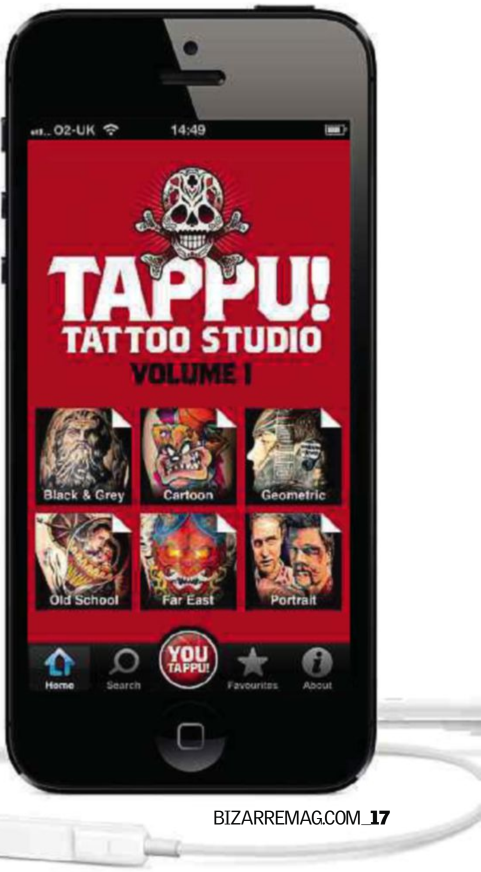
IN *BIZARRE 207* WE REPORTED ON the release of the iPhone app *Tappu! Tattoo Studio Volume 1*, which *Bizarre* reckons is the best body art app on the market today, and a bargain at just 69p.

At the time of writing the team behind *Tappu!* is working hard on an upgrade as the release of the new iPhone operating system, iOS 7, caused some users to experience occasional problems with crashing and unforeseen design glitches.

By the time you read this, all the bugs should have been fixed, and *Tappu! Tattoo Studio Volume 1* will be working perfectly on all iPhone operating systems. And as *Bizarre* loves *Tappu!* so much, we wanted to remind iPhone users that the app is still out there, especially if anyone was put off by the original App Store listing that highlighted the troublesome iOS 7 issues.

We're still having fun exploring *Tappu!*'s gallery of 500+ tattoo photos, reading interviews with key tattoo artists and sending photos of our body art to the Tappu.co.uk website. So don't forget to grab this exciting new app if you're packing an iPhone, people!

Tappu! Tattoo Studio Volume 1 is available in the iPhone App Store. Android version coming soon. See Tappu.co.uk for more details



FEMMES **FATALES**

The first *Women In Horror* calendar celebrates female contributions to UK terror while supporting the Sophie Lancaster Foundation and Rape Crisis charities

WANDER INTO ANY HIGH STREET retailer and you'll be assaulted by the ghastly sight of One Direction calendars. Well, baby, you can stuff them where the sun don't shine, because we've got something genuinely ghoulish to grace your walls in 2014...

The brainchild of filmmaker and art director Melanie Light, the first ever *Women In Horror* calendar celebrates 12 of the most gifted female talents in the UK horror scene, featuring dark artists, taxidermists, scream queens, feisty rockers, festival organisers and subversive fashion designers. Amongst said cast of deadly dames are Die So Fluid singer Grog, 'fairy' taxidermist and *Bizarre* favourite Tessa Farmer, and creepy doll-maker Ufumoa Urie of LittleAppleDolls.com. And, of course, Melanie herself...

"The idea was born out of frustrations with other 'women in horror' collections that centered around filmmakers and then grasped at straws with talent within the circle," says Melanie. "Horror isn't just about films, it's a form of lifestyle: it's what we wear, listen to, read, watch and take part in. It was important to have a mixture of established and not-so-established creatives so as to give a platform of enlightenment to the buyers."

Profits from the calendar are being split between the *Bizarre*-endorsed Sophie Lancaster Foundation, which fights against prejudice, and Rape Crisis England and Wales, which provides support for victims of rape as well as tackling human trafficking. "Finding a way to create and give something back in an artistic form for charity has been important for me," says Melanie. "It has been achieved!"

All photography was shot at East London's Murder Mile Studio by Tina Korhonen who, according to Melanie, "added the perfect rock and roll aspect to the shoot." And it's been getting such a great response that Melanie is keen to do a *Men In Horror* version next year. "That will be a challenge as there are so many guys involved in the macabre in different ways," she says. "Which is precisely my point of finding those horror women in the UK: we need more, where are you?"

The *Women In Horror* calendar is available from Etsy.com/uk/shop/WIHCalendar2014 Visit facebook.com/WomenInHorrorCalendarUK and Twitter @WIHCalendarUK

PICTURES: TINA KORHONEN

WHERE CAN YOU FIND?

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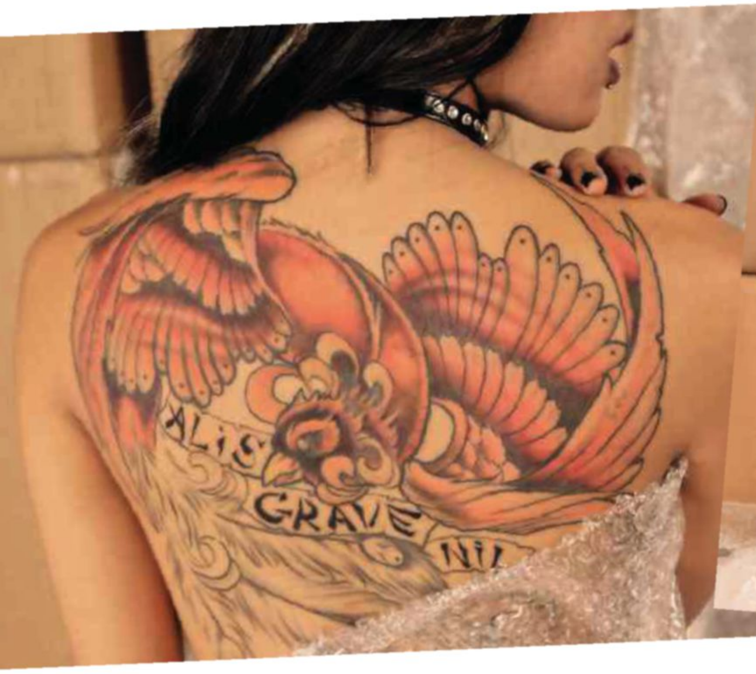
HOTSHOTS >GIRLS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JACK-OFF IN A BOX

Gods Girl **Krissie Dee** plays with packaging while you play with your package

WORDS **ALIX FOX**
PHOTOS **ALL IMAGES COPYRIGHT OF GODSGIRLS.COM / MATTHEW COOKE**

Part Chinese, part Filipino, and 100 per cent Fed-X-rated, the lass you see here frolicking in boxes while unashamedly delivering first-class snaps of her own box direct to your adoring door is named Krissie Dee. A Californian porn star, alt.model and engineering degree student, she can attend to all your packing and stationary needs; from what we've seen of her video career, we'll certainly attest to her skills with all manner of sticky tapes.

Combining the joys of popping bubble wrap with those of an eye-popping, jean-fly-popping bubble butt, this particular set of photos sees her signed, sealed, delivered and all yours... Provided the Royal Mail don't do that hair-tearingly irritating thing where they knock on the door precisely when you're mid-flow taking a slash – and despite voiding your bladder so fast that your golden shower could win a gold medal, you miss the postman and are left with an ominous red card informing you that your parcel has quantum leaped to a holding depot that you'll need to pack a rucksack full of Kendal Mint Cake before attempting to find. Poor Krissie's probably shivering in a storage unit on the outskirts of Staines as we speak.

FRAG
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Ceiling need repainting? Spatter it with your own brand of jet-propelled emotion emulsion by checking out more incredible alt.porn than you could shake a blue-veined Stilton stick at – from Krissie Dee and many more kick-ass, full-o-sass, incredible-assed, more-than-the-mainstream women – over at Godsgirls.com.

Follow Krissie on Twatter @_KrissieDee.com

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HOTSHOTS >DARK ART

POGGER-DO-DO-DO...

… push pineapple, art from Leeds

WORDS ALIX FOX
PICTURES ALL IMAGES COPYRIGHT POGGER

Hull-bred, Leeds-based artist, illustrator and "scummy waste of space" Pogger's official Facebook page describes him as making "shit doodles for shit people".

So, if he could create a doodle for any noxious, obnoxious, fetid, faecal, triple-baked, turtle-headed turbo-turd of an individual in the entire universe, which excretal excuse for a human being would he choose to bless with the gift of a piece of (sh)art? "David Cameron is quite the shit," he muses, "so I reckon I'd honour him with a doodly present by drawing directly onto his skin. I'd sneak into his bedroom while he's sleeping and tattoo a gigantic penis on his back, with Margaret Thatcher in zombie form sucking it off. Surrounding said willy would be a mass of other politicians, police, army personnel and businessmen grasping at it for dear life before they all fell into hell. Then I'd give the snoozing Cameron a Dirty Sanchez – that is, smear a poop moustache across his upper lip – before making a swift exit."

BEWARE OF THE POG

You may sense by now that Pogger tends not to draw hearts, kitties and cherry blossoms. Describing his style as "a fusion of street art and crushing D-beat raw punk rock with heavy influences from heavy boozing, beer, buckfast and coffee", he currently works mainly in monochrome pen and ink, although he diverges into coloured paintings, graffiti and digital art on occasion. His compositions feature bogey-noodle-nosed, wonk-eyed, gangly-limbed characters whose skin bristles with stubble and pustulous pox bubbles. Cute.

There's a trashy, teenage, gleefully gross-out anarchic aspect to Pogger's puke'n' pimples aesthetic, and a laugh-and-retch-simultaneously sense of humour. We'd bet 10 chunky English pound coins that he used to collect Garbage Pail Kids stickers as an ankle-biter. However, especially viewed in bulk, the unrelenting ugliness does become unsettling… even nightmarish. "The daily stress of living in a shite, corrupt world… Owt that's nasty and horrible and makes people feel a bit sick inside always seems to be reflected in what I scrawl," he reflects.

HEAVIN' IS A HALF-PIPE

As well as making your stomach nauseously flip and your teeth nervously grind, Pogger's early illustrations took many cues from the flips and grinds of the skateboarding scene: "I was obsessed with boarding as a kid, which kicked off me drawing in the style you see today, as I was deeply into deck designs by the likes of Ed Templeton and Heroin."

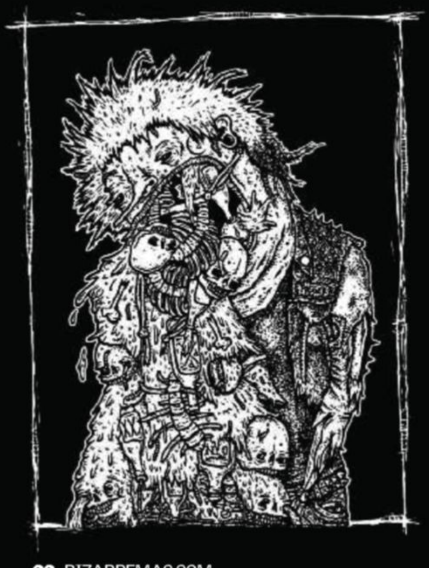
It's easy to see how two such characters could have inspired a guy who today states that when he's not drawing, he's likely to be found "smoking ciggies and riding around on my bike looking for food in bins."

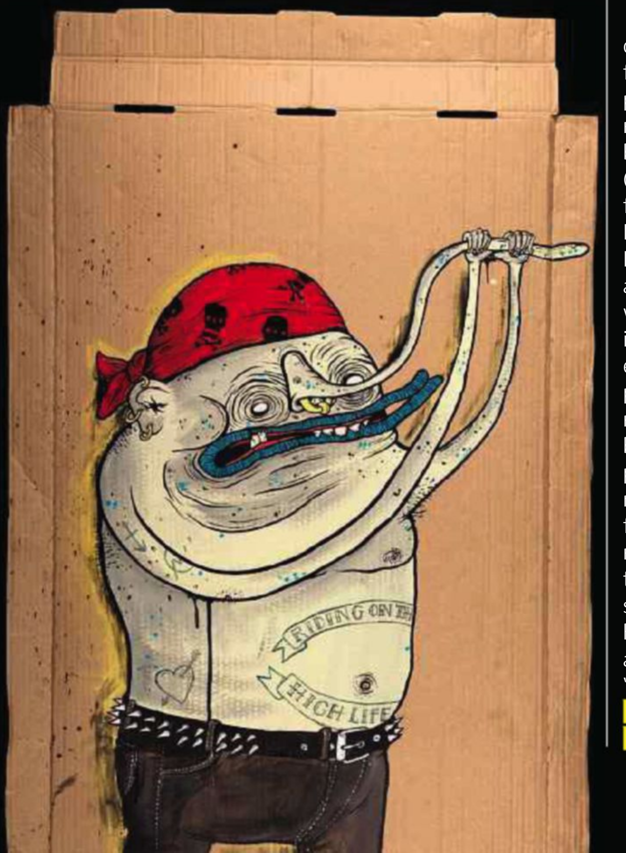
POG OF ETERNAL STENCH

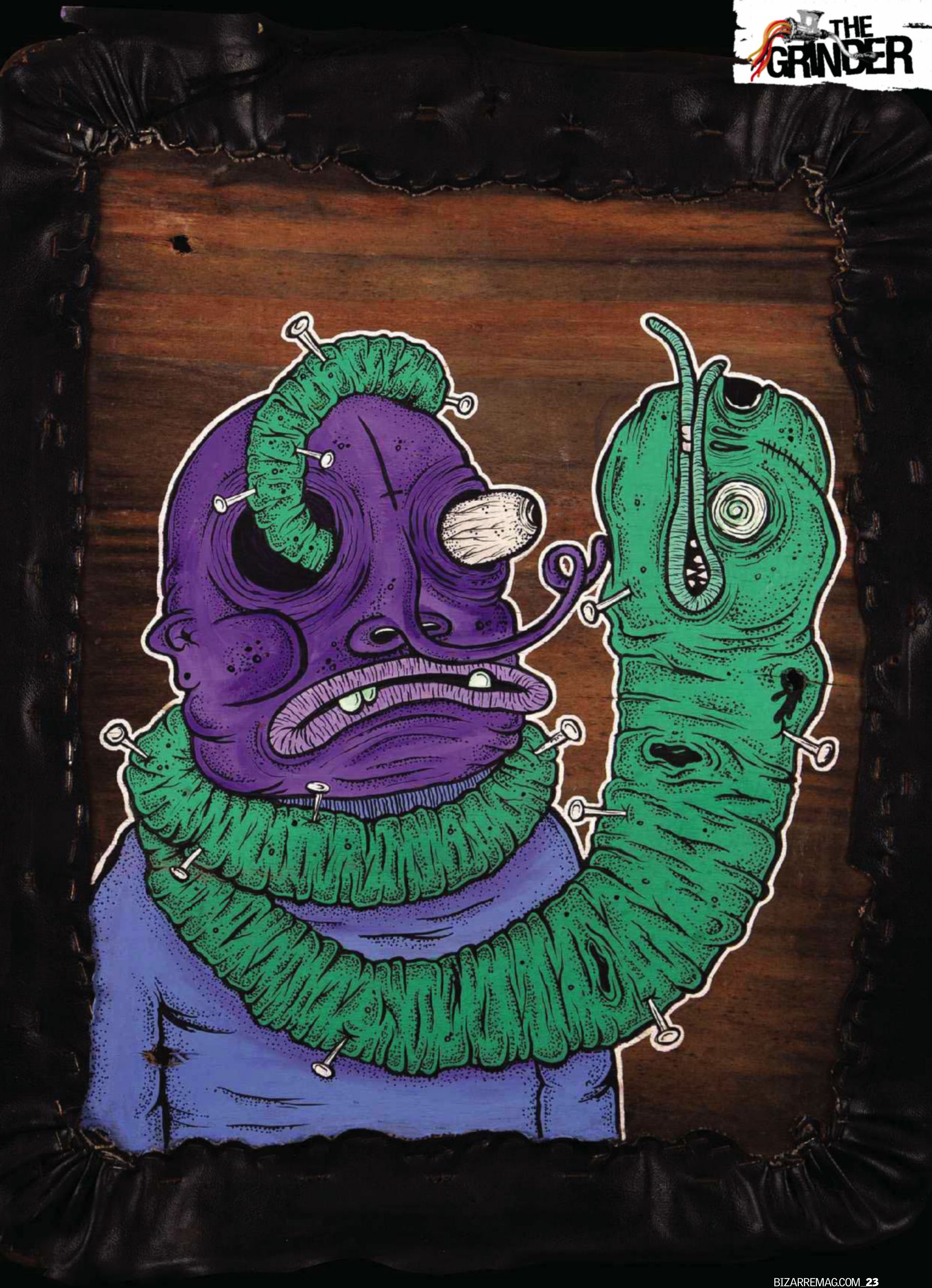
Indeed, Pogger's name is a reflection of his laid-back, grubby-good-times alt.lifestyle. "The word 'Pogger' is used to describe someone that's smelly, scruffy, cheap and poor, but who does a fucking good job of it," he explains. "It's been a label applied to jittery munters on the Hull punk scene for yonks, yet for a long time no-one outside of that area had ever heard the term. Now, it's spread like a common STI, thanks in part to a record called 'Power Joogle Pogger Violence' by grindcore band The Afternoon Gentlemen, which I did the artwork for."

Pogger illustrations adorn many a piece of music merch: he's just finished a cover for *Maximum Rock'n'Roll* magazine, and polished off a sleeve design for the recently released 'Life Is Empty / I Feel Fucked' EP by "D-beat doom crust DIY" outfit Swinelord (well, it was never going to be by smooth-faced waxen midget Bruno Mars, was it?). He's also exhibited paintings in Leeds, London, Liverpool and New York, and is about to take a three-month trip to the US. "If anyone wants to collaborate on a project while I'm in the US, please get in touch!" Pogger enthuses. "Travelling and meeting sound new people revitalises me. I have an unwanted ritual of procrastinating for hours, even days, before starting a piece, but seeing what more productive people achieve pushes me to be more active." If said activity leads to further fortune, what will he spunk his newfound riches on? "Erm, I really love chickens – they're a great animal – so I'd love to keep some chicken friends of my own one day," he answers. The master of foul wants to be a master of fowl? We guess 'chicken' and 'pox' are a classic combo…

Get Poggin' at Poggerart.wordpress.com
Make contact via Poggerartwork@gmail.com







HOTSHOTS
>BODY MODS

VERBAL JIM-NASTICS

Following his ink-themed *Tattooligan* comedy tour, we catch up with funnyman Jim Smallman about body art, YMCA wangs and raising a laugh for 'special' fans

WORDS **ALIX FOX**
PICTURES **ED MOORE**

“I worked in the credit department of Next for eight years – I think they only kept me on so long because I was vaguely amusing. And as a teaching assistant, there was always a part of me that wanted to kill the kids a little bit,” says Leicestershire-born Jim Smallman on life prior to becoming an acclaimed stand-up comedian. Nowadays, he earns his full-time living by making people crease up and wet themselves like a cheap polyester shirt on an incontinent contortionist, and his most famous show to date revolves around the subject of body art.

Having won two Hollywood Fringe awards for his first ever hour-long routine, *The Boy Next Door Gone Wrong*, and completed a stint as a presenter on BBC Radio Leicester, Smallman wrote *Tattooligan*: a performance that focused on people's perceptions of and the true meanings behind the comic's multiple tattoos. To promote the show, he had its title permanently inked across his stomach in large script (bringing a new dimension to the term 'belly laughs'), and also wrote a column for tatt mag *Skin Deep* for a year. He's now preparing a fresh routine themed around his romance with fiancée Shay Hendrix, a former adult movie star and glamour model. From skin decorations to skin flicks, much of Smallman's life seems to have been dedicated to the dermis.

In advance of the new show's debut in 2014, we got the funnyman to talk us through three of his favourite bits of needlework...

RON BURGUNDY...?

“At my first Edinburgh run, I got every audience member each night to draw or write down a suggestion for a new tattoo I should have, with the promise that I'd get it inked when the festival was over. On the very last evening, I had attendees vote for the design I'd have committed to my flesh forevermore, and 'Portrait Of Ron Burgundy' won by just one vote. He only got five ballots in total – I wasn't pulling in very big crowds at that stage! Second by a minute margin was 'Five Giant Penises Dressed As The Village People'. My goddamn dad voted for the penises, too! He's terrified of needles, but he's vowed that if I land a gig at the Royal Albert Hall, he'll agree to getting a tattoo of my choosing. I'm thinking of asking him to ink my own face over his, to enhance the family resemblance. I also have portraits of fellow comedian Martin Mor, the result of a lost bet, and wrestler Mick Foley – I supported Mick on his stand-up tour, and am myself co-founder and ring announcer for the UK wrestling company PROGRESS.”

MATHEMATICAL FORMULA

“The formula on my arm actually represents the song '2 Rights Make 1 Wrong' by Mogwai, which I listened to a lot after coming out of hospital following a suicide attempt. I'm now 35, and I've been straight edge since I was 20, as commemorated in the tattoo I have of Hello Kitty wearing a Minor Threat T-shirt: the term 'Straight Edge' originally comes from a song they released in the 1980s. However, I used to have major issues with alcohol and painkillers, and on one occasion I did relapse and attempt to take my own life by jumping in front of a train. I was so bollocksed, however, that I ended up just sitting on the edge of the station platform, and a kind guy brought me a cup of tea and called an ambulance.

“Since then, I've met a lot of exceptionally good-natured and inspirational people who I often reference in my shows – like Paul, a bloke with Down's syndrome who came to one of my performances. He was a regular at that particular venue, and he approached me before the curtain went up and said, 'Look, I come here all the time, it's my birthday today, and I'd really like you to take the piss out of me on stage.' He explained that most comics were scared of the huge taboo surrounding mocking his disability, and as a result he'd never been involved in the banter, heckling and piss-taking that he'd witnessed countless times between performers and audience members. This made him feel marginalised and left out, despite being a dedicated comedy fan. What he wanted more than anything else, as a birthday gift, was to feel normal and involved, and to be credited with a sense of humour. During my act, I announced: 'It's Paul's birthday, so give him a huge round of applause!' As everyone put their hands together, I followed up with, 'Yeah, give him a clap, it's his special day! Mind you, every day is 'special' for this dude...' The whole room made that shocked 'Ooooohhhh...' noise, until they clocked that Paul was crying with laughter, at which point they got on board. Thank fuck.”

VIDEOGAME-THEME SLEEVE

“I've got the commands to throw a fireball on *Street Fighter*, as well as Toadette and Princess Peach from the *Super Mario Bros* series, which my daughter Amelia chose, and *Pac-Man*'s face. One of my earliest memories is of my pa playing in a *Pac-Man* tournament in Weymouth when I was three. Probably as a result of his influence, videogames are one of my favourite things in life. I'm also extremely keen on breasts, but I figured it'd be weird to have an entire arm filled with pics of dismembered tits.”

Don't make a boob – get your ass down to the Jim at Jimsmallman.com

I can resist everything except

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LATEX LUNACY!

Ultra Vixen **ChristineFury** takes a tumble on **p42**

PlUS!

Junk Mail
Your letters and photos!

Your Body Art
Your ink'n'iron!

Readers' Art
Your deranged doodles!

PICTURE: LE MEW PHOTOGRAPHY

RANT AT US AND SEND US SHIT!

Bizarre's own **Mandatron** loves nothing better than greasing her circuits, pressing her buttons and blowing a fuse over your crazy photos, perverted art and impressive ink. Send in your stuff now, and serve your friendly neighbourhood robot! **Mandatron's favourite submissions will make it onto these hallowed pages!**

BIZARRE Junk mail

EDITED BY MANDATRON
MANDATRON@BLACKTHORNCOMMUNICATIONS.COM

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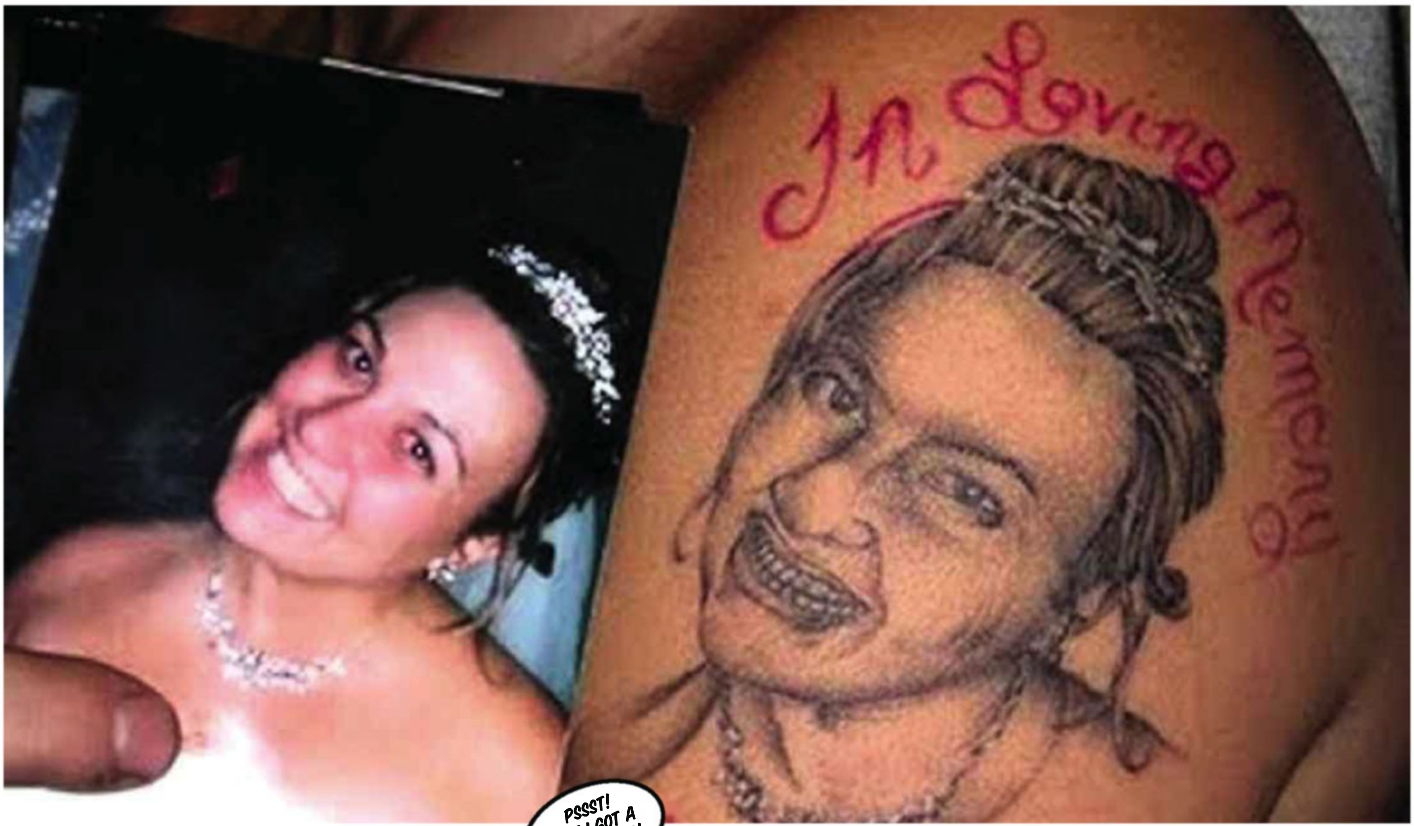


PICTURE: COURTESY OF SCOTTVERSAGO.COM

Dumpstar!

PSSST! 'AVE I GOT A TAIL FOR YA!

GREAT SCOTT!

My name is Scott Versago and I'm a tattoo artist working at Empire Ink in Ohio, USA. I recently garnered media attention for reworking what was regarded as the world's worst portrait tattoo into what many are calling "a beautiful work of art".

My client's wife tragically died in an electrical fire roughly three weeks after their wedding day, leaving him to raise their three kids alone, and he wanted to honour her memory with a tattoo. When he came to me and showed me his ink, I was floored – not only was it the famous tattoo I'd seen many times on the internet, but it was 100 times worse than the original viral photo (see above).

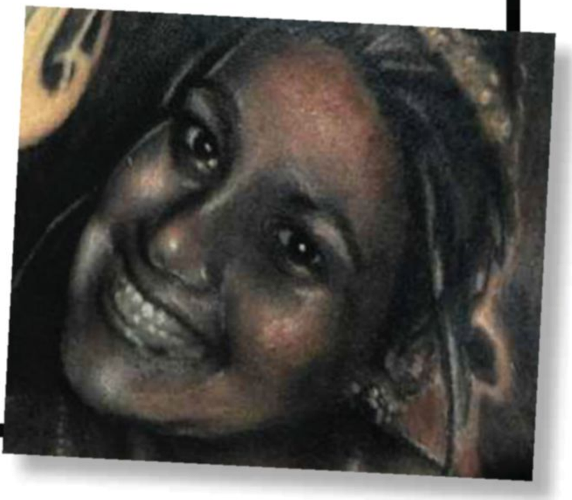
The poor guy had gone back to the original artist, who'd initially charged him $450, but then butchered it a further two times over the next two years. The tattooist even added a crude window of flames around her, which was like insult to injury as she'd died in a fire.

I set the client up with my next available appointment, and three months later I sat down to rework his shit tattoo. Luckily, the original tattooist hadn't tried to touch-up the teeth, which I felt was the focal point, so there was six years worth of faded ink I could work over. I had to move the eyes, reshape most of the major features with dark contrasts, and layered lots of white wash (below right). It took around four hours until I felt satisfied – and my client was so happy that he almost broke down in tears. He thanked me, shook my hand, and told me I'd finally brought him and his entire family closure.

I couldn't bring myself to charge him as he'd spent years feeling ashamed – he'd already paid a big price for his tattoo.

Scott Versago, via email. See more mind-blowing body art at Scottversago.com and Empire-ink.com

Mandatron says: **Ah, yes... the 'before' version will be hauntingly familiar to many readers! But your cover-up is phenomenal, and your generous gesture is very touching. You deserve all the recognition and praise your work is getting, Scott!**



The best is yet to cum!!

CUM AND GET IT!

I made a gigantic pierced cock cake (above) using *Bizarre*'s recipe from ages ago! I even put extra baby 'buttercream' batter in the bollocks and bell-end for extra authenticity. I knew the recipe for a sponge shlong would come in handy one day.

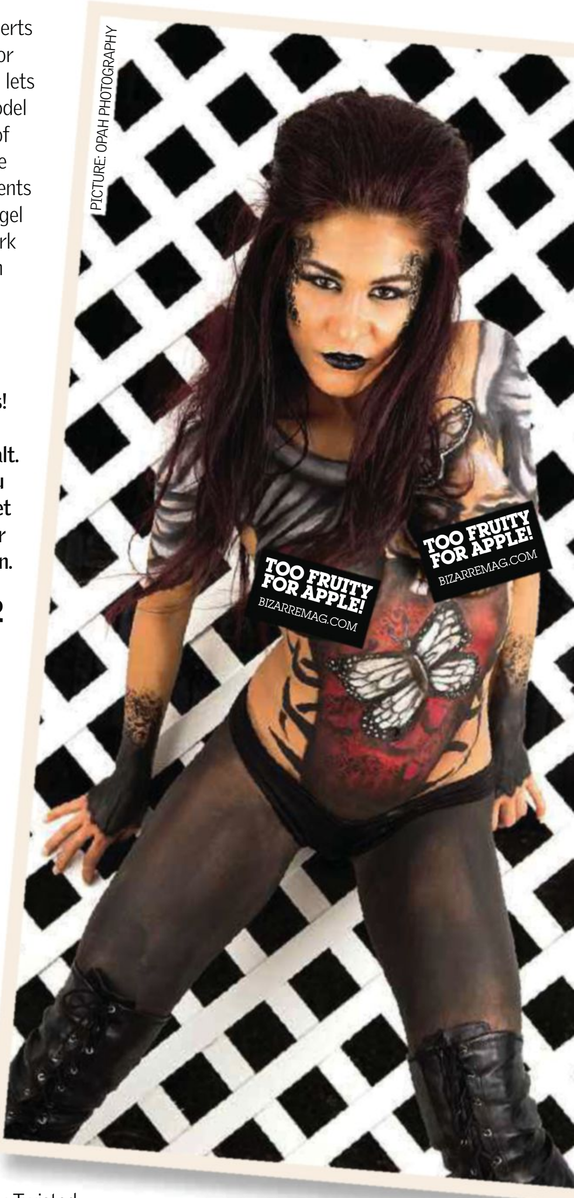
Luna Ælflæd (@LunaLunaFae), via Twitter

LICK OF PAINT

I'm Kerri Keller and I'm a huge fan of your magazine! It'd be an amazing honour to one day grace the cover. I recently collaborated with body painter Angela René Roberts and Opah Photography for this shoot (right). Angela lets the personality of the model determine the direction of the art. For this shoot she combined beautiful elements (roses, butterflies and angel wings) with edgy and dark skulls and the implication of blood in the red tones. Ultimately, she turned me into a dark goddess!

Kerri Keller, via Facebook

Mandatron says: Badass! **If you haven't already joined the ranks of our alt. girl army, make sure you sign up at Ultravixens.net and enter our Search for A Cover Star competition.**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PICTURE: OPAH PHOTOGRAPHY

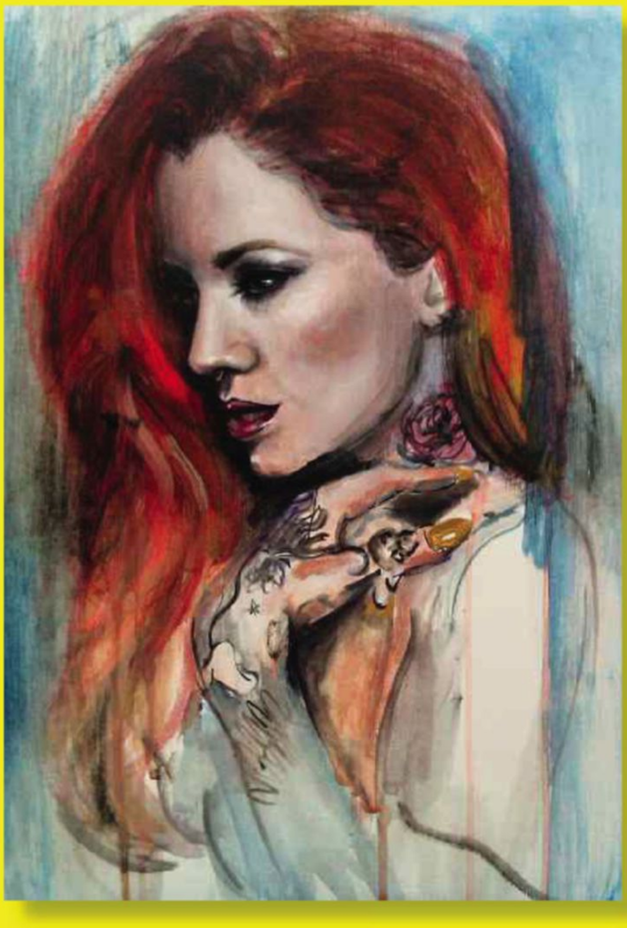
FIVE DOLLAR SHAKES

Ultra Vixen Portia Victoria here! Back in April I ran a fetish event in Manchester that had a *Pulp Fiction* theme, which *Bizarre* helped promote through its Facebook and Twitter profiles. Events manager Jon Kay and I arranged live re-enactments of scenes from the film by actors and drama students (pictured below), live rockabilly music, burlesque performances and a twist contest.

We, as Strange & Slightly Twisted Events, wanted the audience to be involved as much as possible so we could raise money for the homeless charity, Shelter. I felt I needed to give something back to the organisation as it had helped me when I was homeless at 16. You can follow the Strange & Slightly Twisted Events Facebook page for news about our upcoming alternative nights!

Portia Victoria, via Facebook →

PICTURE: DARKSPACEINVADER PHOTOGRAPHY



ALT.GIRL ARTWORK

Hello *Bizarre*! I'd love you to have a butchers at some of my artwork. I've always loved traditional portraiture, but I got heavily into comics, movies, street art and tattoo art in my teens, which I think warped my style for the better. I love the textures in street art, and I'm always trying to make things look more painted by emphasising drips and gloss. I use oils, watercolours and sometimes pen to create a more graphic style of work. I always get in touch with the alt.girls I paint if they've not sat for me. I've painted *Bizarre* cover star Nina Kate (above) a few times, and (I think) she's been pleased with the results! April Flores, Mosh, Victoria Modesta, El Wood and Ellis Cooper are all on my list of *Bizarre* cover stars I'd like to paint! Check out my Tumblr blog **Puddingbaby.tumblr.com** for more.

Chloe AKA Pudding Baby, via email

KEEP IT CREEPY

Hi *Bizarre*! I'm a freelance photographer who's just left college with a particular interest in portraiture and surreal work – I like to mix things up a bit. For my most recent shoot I collaborated with make-up artist Kirsty Marie, who transformed my friends Sami Hexx and Stacey Marie (pictured below) with special effects for a *Silent Hill* inspired look. A lot of my inspiration comes from the atmosphere in horror movies. I find myself really enjoying horror films for the look of the buildings and the people in them, even if the story is bad. For my next shoot I plan on having a surreal woodland theme with a lot of lace, mad outfits and crazy hair, which should be fun! I often browse Bizarremag.com and especially love the 'Weird Video' section – I also adore your blog posts on YourBizarre's Tumblr!

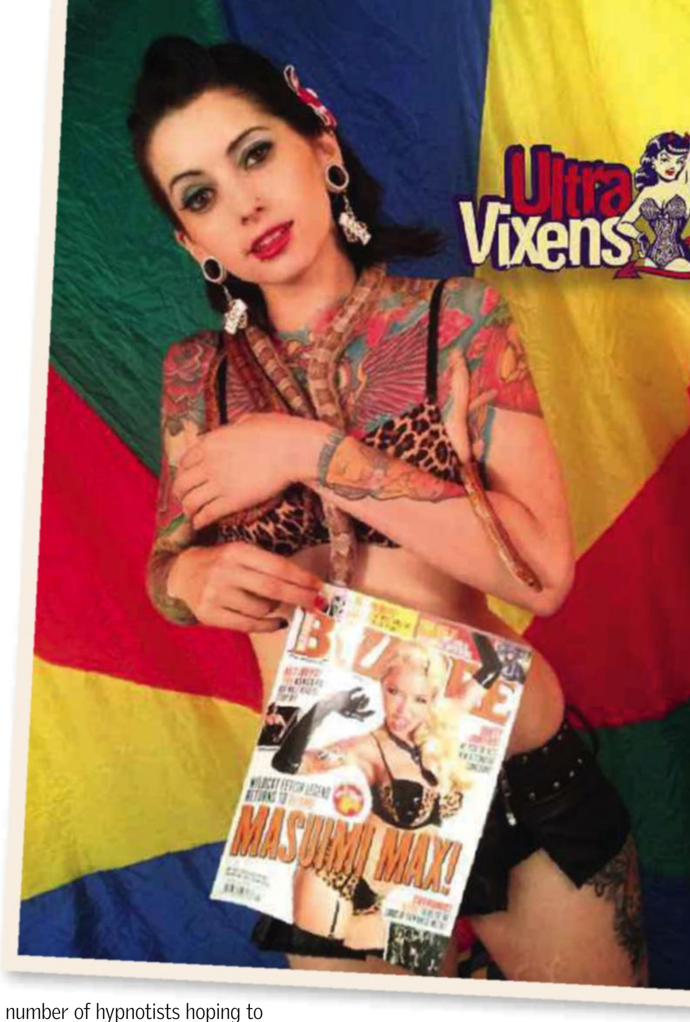
Calla Stevenson, via email

PICTURE: TRAPPED WISH PHOTOGRAPHY

ROLL UP! ROLL UP!

I love reading *Bizarre* magazine! There's a great image of me with compere queen Rosie Lugosi in *Bizarre 205*, winning my 'Miss Tattoo UK 2013' title at the Liverpool Tattoo Convention earlier this year. During a recent circus themed shoot I dressed as a ringmaster, a tattooed lady and a snake charmer – I was draped in corn snakes and a bowl python owned by photographer James Smith (pictured right).

EmyClaire via Twitter



PICTURE: DBRANDED PHOTOS / JAMES SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

HYPNO-FETISHIST FEMBOTS UNITE!

My partner and I recently read *Bizarre 204* and found the robot fetishism feature fascinating, mostly because we already practice this sort of thing, where I hypnotise my partner into believing she's a robot. The website you linked to in the feature is used by a surprising number of hypnotists hoping to transform women into perfect robots.

I'd be interested to read an article about hypno-fetishism and maybe even offer my own views and experiences on the subject, as it's something that's surprisingly popular despite hypnosis being something of a taboo subject.

Hypnosis can be used to give orgasms, for mental bondage (where a person believes they're bound), personality switches, mannequin play, robot fetishism and much more. It has a sizeable community on the MCForum.net website, along with many stories dedicated to ladies and men being hypnotised.

I hope you consider my idea to expand on the subject and run a feature on hypno-fetishism to enlighten people who may be interested in the idea, but didn't know it existed.

Darren Styne, via email

Mandatron says: Thanks for your valued feedback, Darren! We wouldn't want our robot readers fumbling with their buttons alone – we'll look into your hypo-fetish feature suggestion!

TWITT-ARGGH!

I find it fucking ludicrous that some shops want to put *Bizarre* in a black modesty bag, and not vile publications that promote body hatred. What's sicker: celebrating a woman's beauty, or talking about which women have put on weight?

Sianel No. 5 (@siandeleere8), via Twitter

TATTOOIST'S LATEST BOX OF TRICKS

I'm a tattoo artist, but I also build and design handmade tattoo machine boxes that I hope to sell at conventions. I search for images on the internet, but I also create my own with paintings, carvings and engravings. I also accept commissions – if there's anything you'd like to see on your box, I'll do it. Here are two examples of my designs (below), including the blue lips of international tattooist and alt.model, Megan Massacre. You can find more on my Facebook page by searching: 'Tattoo Machine Boxes.'

Alessio Tyrell, via email

Newcastle-based body modder Martin Fraser claimed via Twitter (@northernbrands) to be having a "hard day at the office reading through the 200th issue of *Bizarre*". Pull the other one!

WHERE DO YOU READ YOURS?

Most of you enjoy perusing *Bizarre* on the crapper, just like King Karim Jamal (right), but we want to see you reading the world's greatest rag on the highest peaks, in the lowest valleys… and in the weirdest places!

WHAT'S THAT BULGE IN YOUR PANTS, MARTIN?
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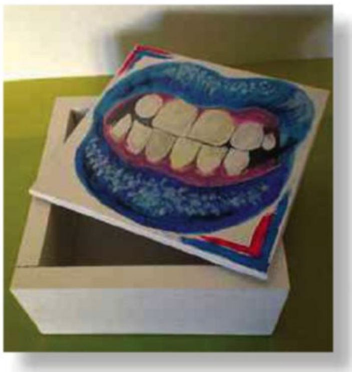

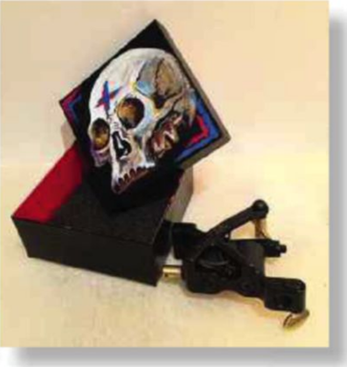

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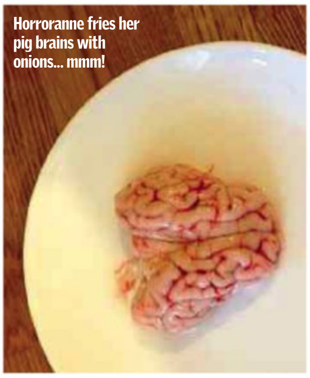
You lot showing off on our community page… Visit us at Your-bizarre.tumblr.com

MissDeadlyRed wears Kaoris Latex Dreams

PICTURE: RAVEN BLAKH PHOTOGRAPHY



Horroranne fries her pig brains with onions… mmm!

TooHotToBeGoth "It's too hot to shower alone in the summer!"

AliceBizarre's Vincent Price portrait by Gavin Rodrigues

Ultra Vixen Dante-Layla is "awaiting orders"

PICTURE: FLASHBANGWALLOP

NEXT MONTH!

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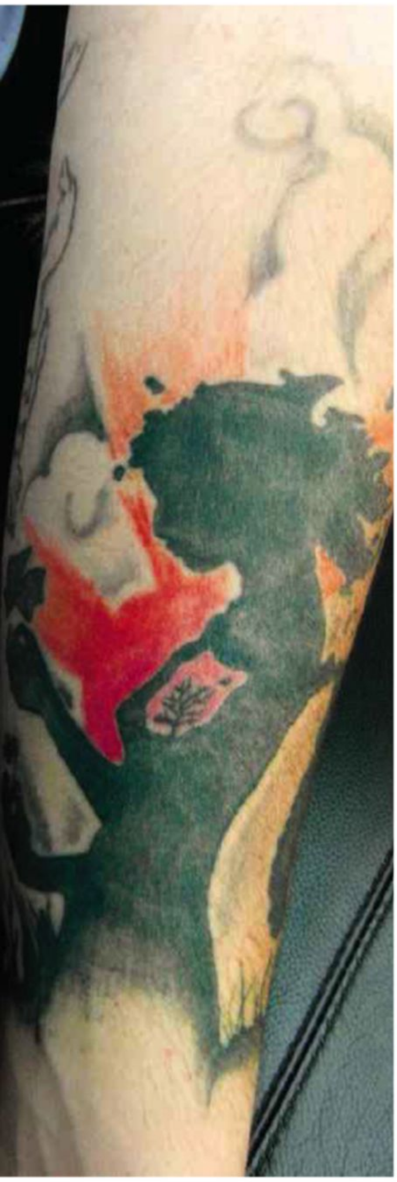
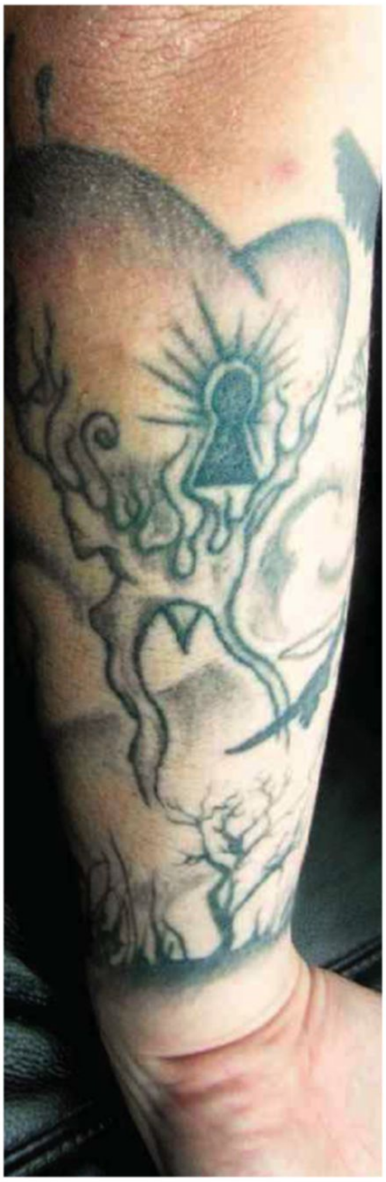
- AN INTERVIEW WITH LLOYD KAUFMAN FROM TRASH KINGS TROMA ENTERTAINMENT!
- **ESTER SEGARRA'S AMAZING ALT.PHOTOGRAPHY!**
- THE WORLD'S MOST INCREDIBLE TATTOOS AND BODY ART REVEALED!

PICTURE: ROWAN MURRAY

YOUR Body Art

READER TATTS AND BODY MODS





▲CHRIS G
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

ARTIST Zoe Clark at Good Ship 13 Tattoo, Hadleigh.

WHAT IS IT?
A silhouette of an angel with a sunset, grass, birds and a heart.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
Zoe is a close friend of mine, and when she did this work she was starting out as a tattoo apprentice. I was happy to dedicate my skin to help Zoe improve her skills, so the majority of my ink is by her. I gave her free reign to tattoo whatever designs she wanted, and as you can see it worked out very well!

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
A lot of people ask me what it is and what it represents. I haven't had any negative comments, which is pretty cool. Someone liked the heart so much that they had it tattooed on their skin as well!

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
Now that Zoe is an accomplished tattoo artist I'm looking forward to getting more designs from her. She's got designs in her portfolio that I'm keen on, which could work as a big chest piece. I've asked Zoe to design a four-faced angel for my leg which comes from my nerdy reading about The Ark of the Covenant.

WEDNESDAY KAY▼
HOLLINGWORTH

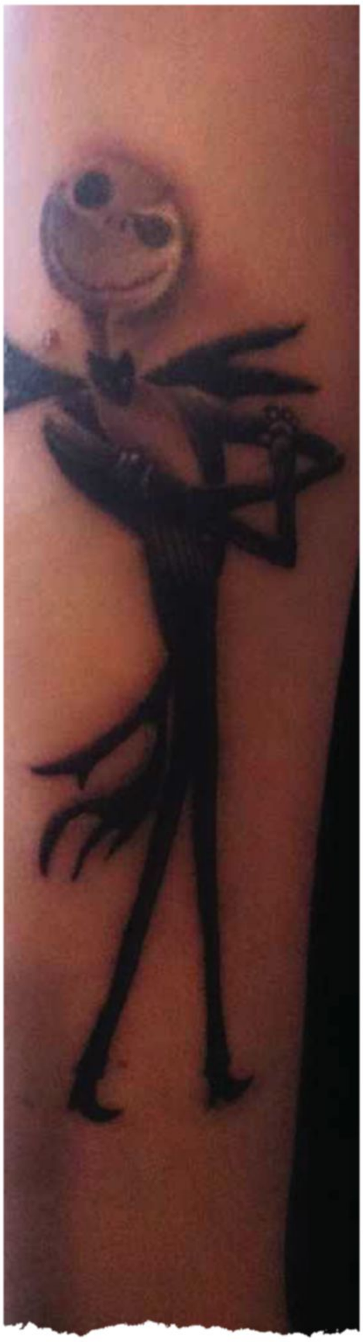
ARTIST Xen Jackson at 187 INK, Stalybridge.

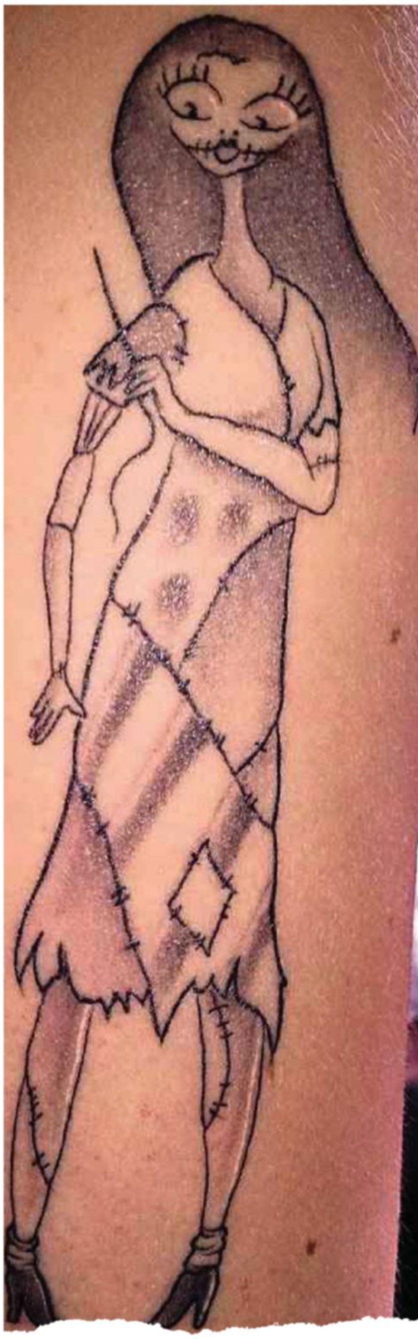
WHAT IS IT?
Jack and Sally.

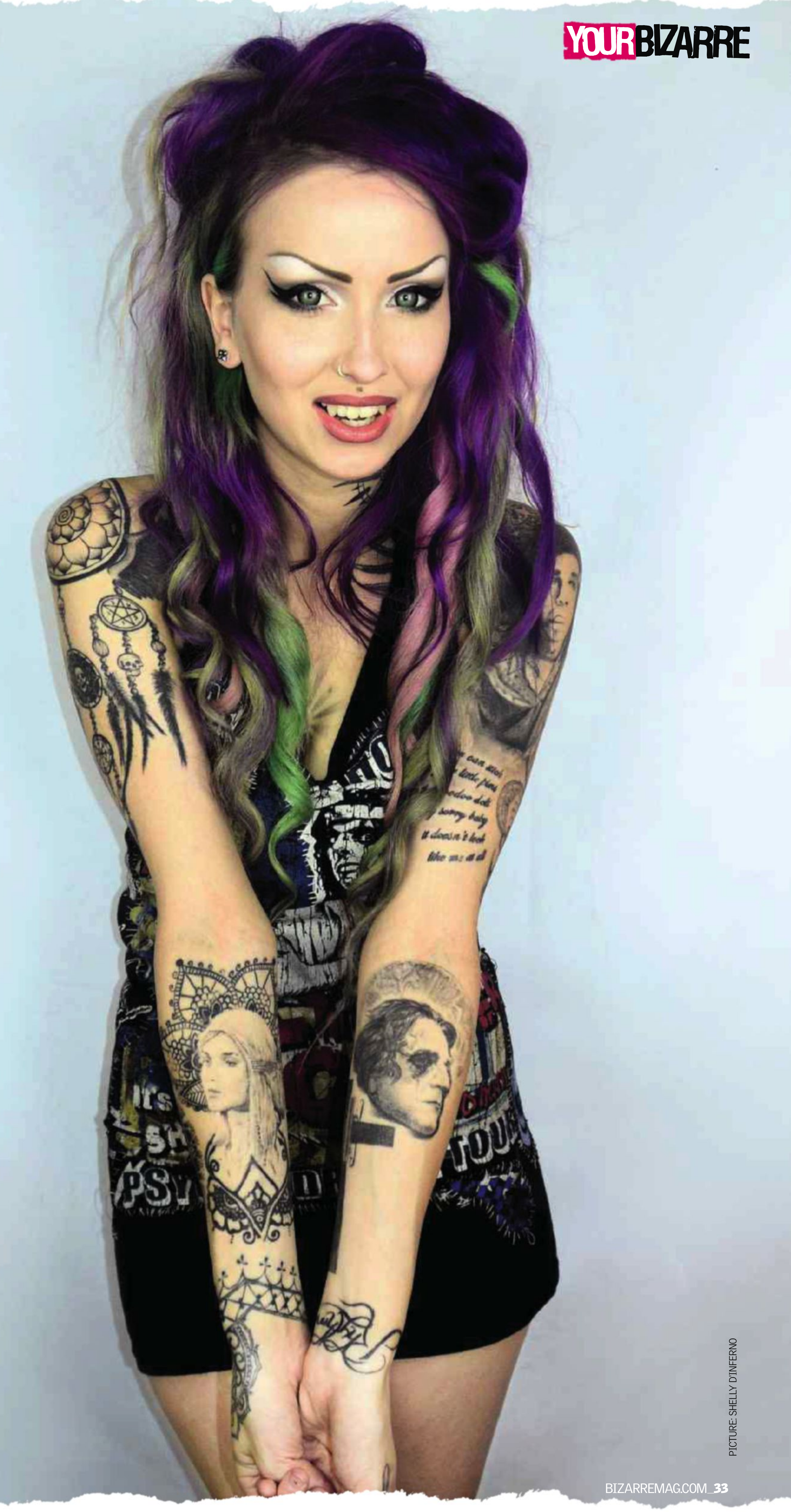
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
Tim Burton's *A Nightmare Before Christmas* has been my favourite film since I was four-years-old, so I'm getting my geek on! I like having ink because it makes me stand out from the crowd. Having tattoos is a big 'fuck you' to anyone who hates people with ink.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET?
Some people give me dirty looks, but most really like them and the detail Jackson has put in. My family know I love tattoos, and they approve of all the other ink I have as well. My mum particularly likes Jack's shoes – she thinks they're well cool!

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
The 12 designs I want are mainly song lyrics, but my next one will say "Music Is Just A Way For You To Bleed".







PICTURE: SHELLY D'INFERNO

SHELLY D'INFERNO
LONDON

PICTURE: JAMES ELLIS AKA CODEINE DREAM

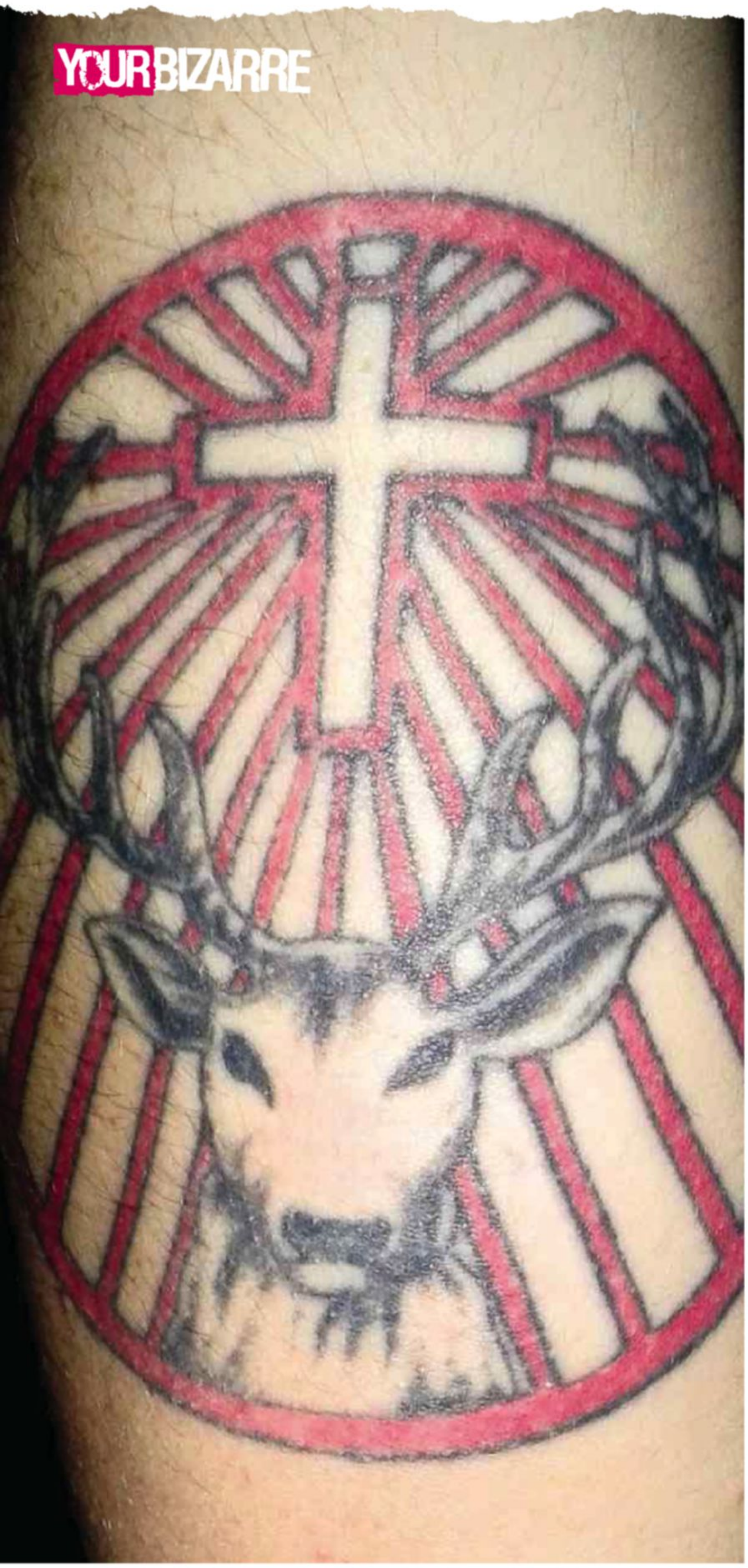
ARTIST Gavin Rodrigues at The Monkey's Paw, Bury St Edmunds.

WHAT IS IT?
Two portraits.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
On my right arm is an Indian Oriental style portrait of my mum, and on my left underarm is Jaz Coleman, singer of post-punk band Killing Joke. My mother is the only person that I genuinely 100 per cent look up to – she's my best friend, my blood... and now my tattoo! There's no question about it – I had to have a portrait of her. The portrait on my left arm is the album art for my favourite Killing Joke CD, *Absolute Dissent*. The band's music shoots right to my heart, and it makes me feel something I cannot describe. I like being a walking canvas. There are so many beautiful things I'm fascinated by and love deeply that might I as well decorate my 'temple' with them!

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
I've got so much ink that people just look at my work and say, "They're some cool tattoos!" I wonder whether there are too many to look at? My mum sometimes says, "Don't you think you should slow down a bit?", but she's not bothered. When she saw the portrait of her, she said "Damn, I look good!" I couldn't be happier with the result of Gavin's work – he's a master of portraiture!

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
So many more! Right now I'm finishing a big ship on my side. After that I'm going to tattoo the gate of Moria from *Lord Of The Rings* on my vajayjay. That's probably the best idea I've had... ever!



▲TOM HENSHAW
MANCHESTER

ARTIST Becky at New Order Tattoos, Chester.

WHAT IS IT?
It's the Jaegermeister symbol!

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO GET IT?
Aside from being a huge drinker, I love doom metal, and the Jaeger symbol was used in the art for the Orange Goblin album *Thieving From The House Of God*. My entire right arm is taken up by designs inspired by music.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
The upper half of the same arm is one big piece taken from several albums' worth of art by the black metal / experimental electro band Ulver. I'm hoping to expand the floral element of the Ulver tattoo downwards, to act as filler between the different pieces on my right arm. As for my future music-related tattoos, I'd love to get an Adam Ant tattoo. I've been a huge fan of his for years. After that I'd like to get an Elliott Smith tattoo. The guy is my absolute favourite musician, and this year is the 10th anniversary of his death – and I'd like to mark that with a tattoo.

LEE WILEMAN▼
LEAMINGTON SPA

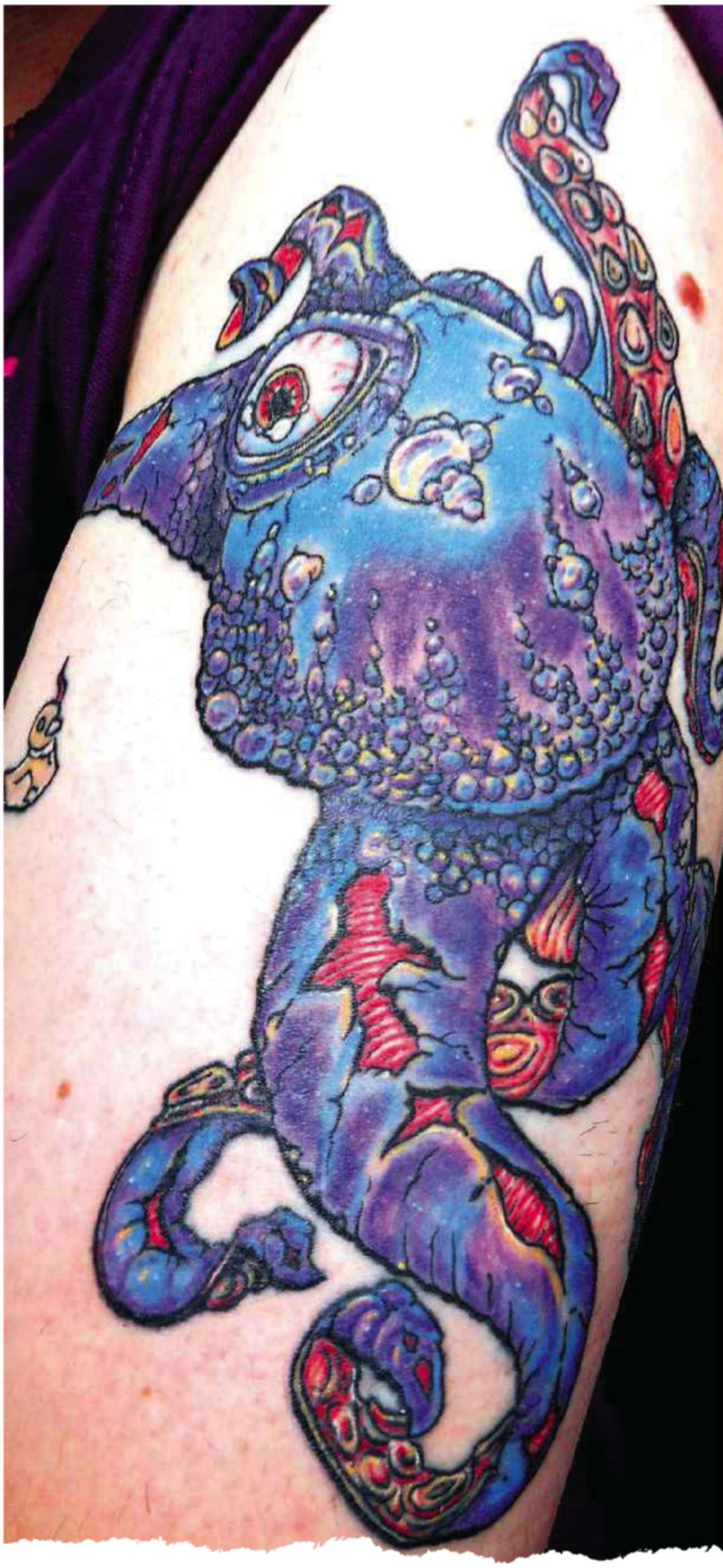
ARTIST Giles Twigg at Inky G's, Wolverhampton.

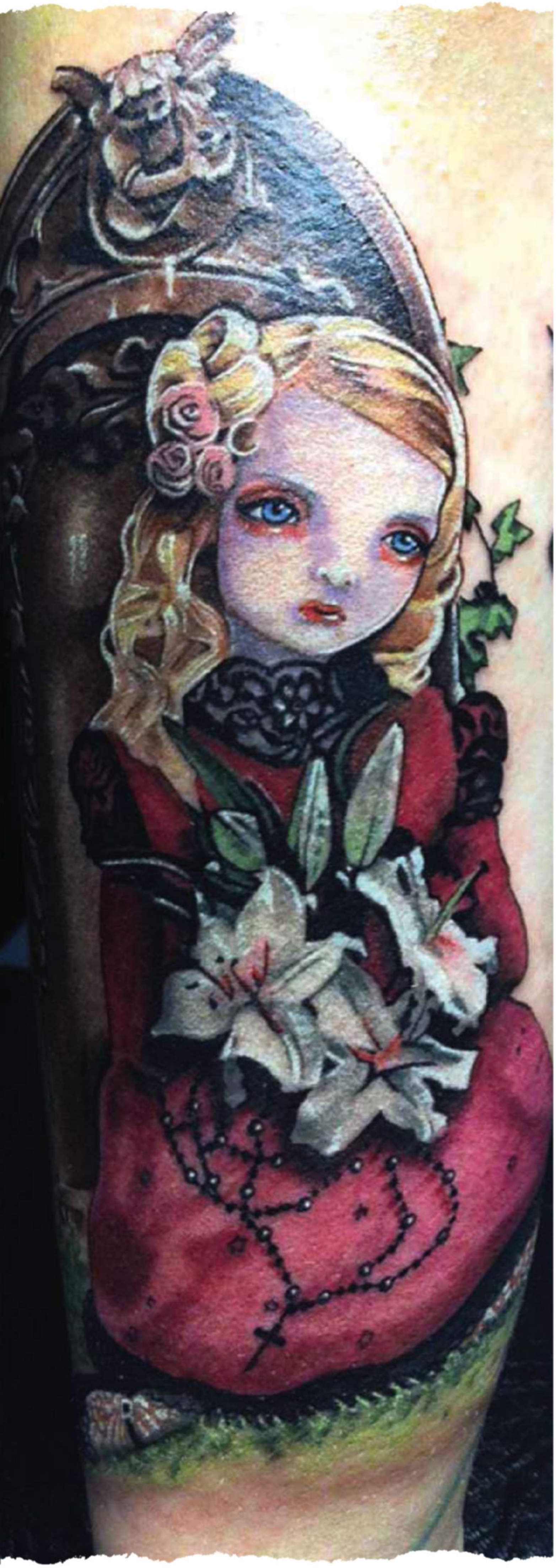
WHAT IS IT?
An octopus holding a tiny rubber duck.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I have always been a HP Lovecraft fan. Anything with tentacles is good by me.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
I have had some really positive responses. A few people think it's a bit too different for their tastes, but that's cool… because so am I! Most of my family really like it, but I can't imagine my grandparents will be too impressed when they see it.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
I would like to add some more colour to the background, and maybe turn it into a half-sleeve in the near future.





JADE CARR▼
NORTHAMPTON

ARTIST

David Corden at Ritual Art Tattoo, Kent.

WHAT IS IT?

A piece of digital art by Natalie Shau titled 'The Messenger', and a painting by Brian M Viveros that's called 'Viva La Muerte'.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?

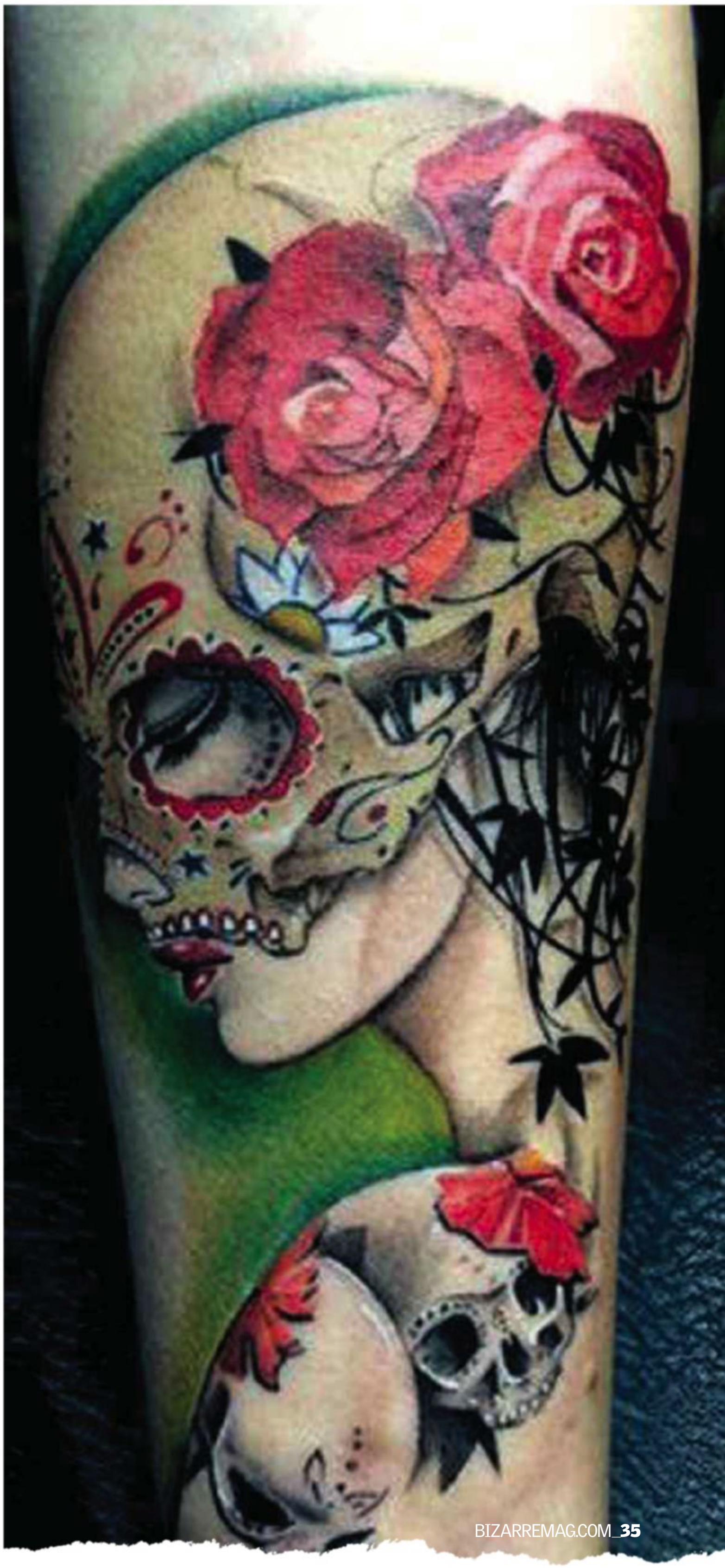
I chose these as a celebratory tribute to a couple of significant people in my life who have passed away.

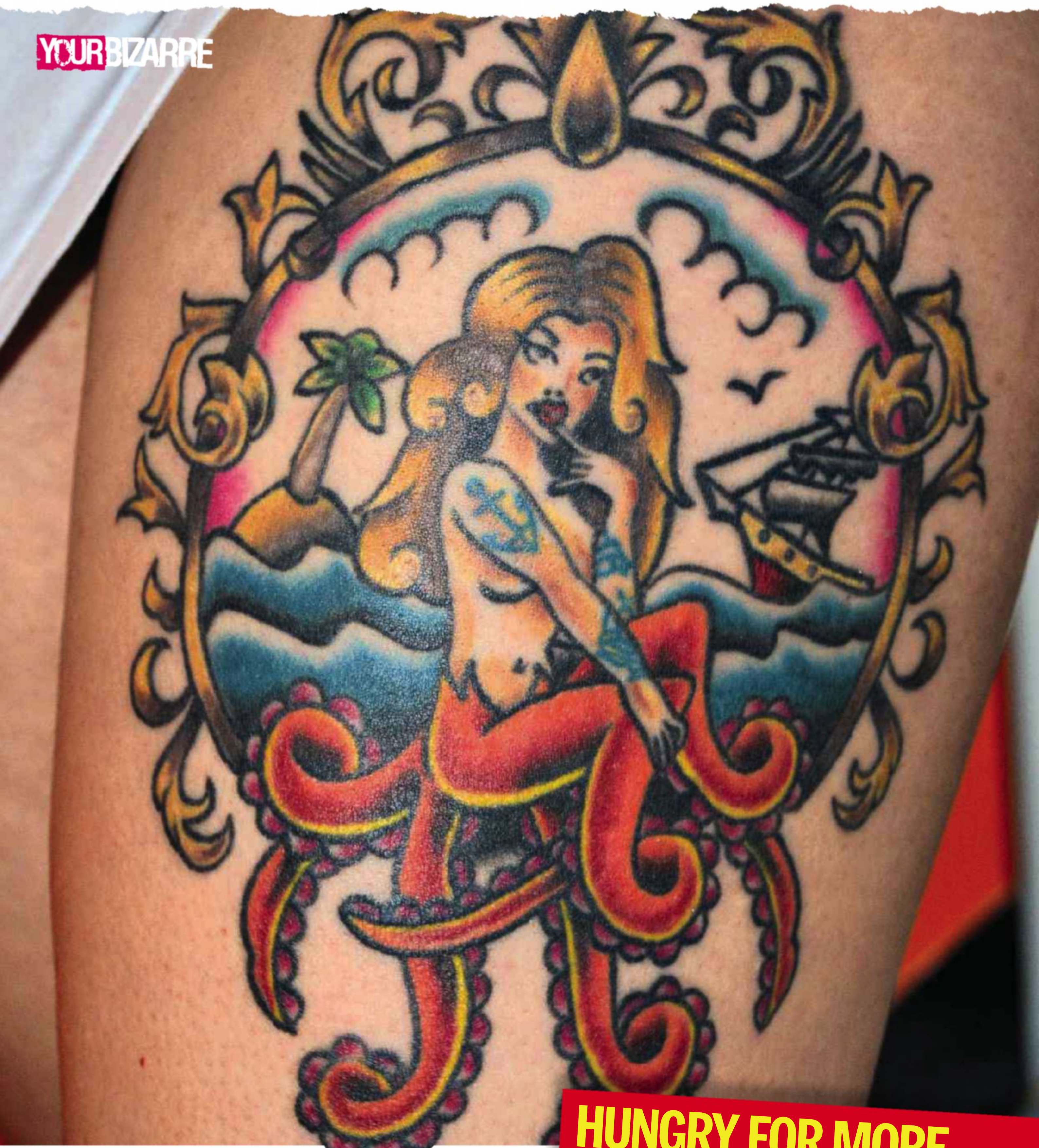
WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?

I get positive reactions from most people. Some folks find it a little morbid and creepy, but they are still amazed by the detail captured in the tattoos.

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?

I'm going to continue my sleeve with David – all of my tattoos are by him!





LEANNE BIRD
BIRMINGHAM

WHO DID IT?
Curt Cavanagh at Laughing Buddha Tattoo Studio, Birmingham.

WHAT IS IT?
A neo-traditional octopus mermaid.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IT?
I love mermaids, but they're a very common tattoo design nowadays, so I wanted something a bit different. I like bright and traditional designs.

WHAT RESPONSE DO YOU GET FROM PEOPLE?
I normally get responses along the lines of, "It's weird, but beautiful." A lot of people think the colours are amazing. My family and friends love my tattoo and they respect the designs I choose. Curt has even tattooed my mum!

GOT ANY MORE PLANNED?
A bright neo-traditional full sleeve, and more nautical designs added to my legs.

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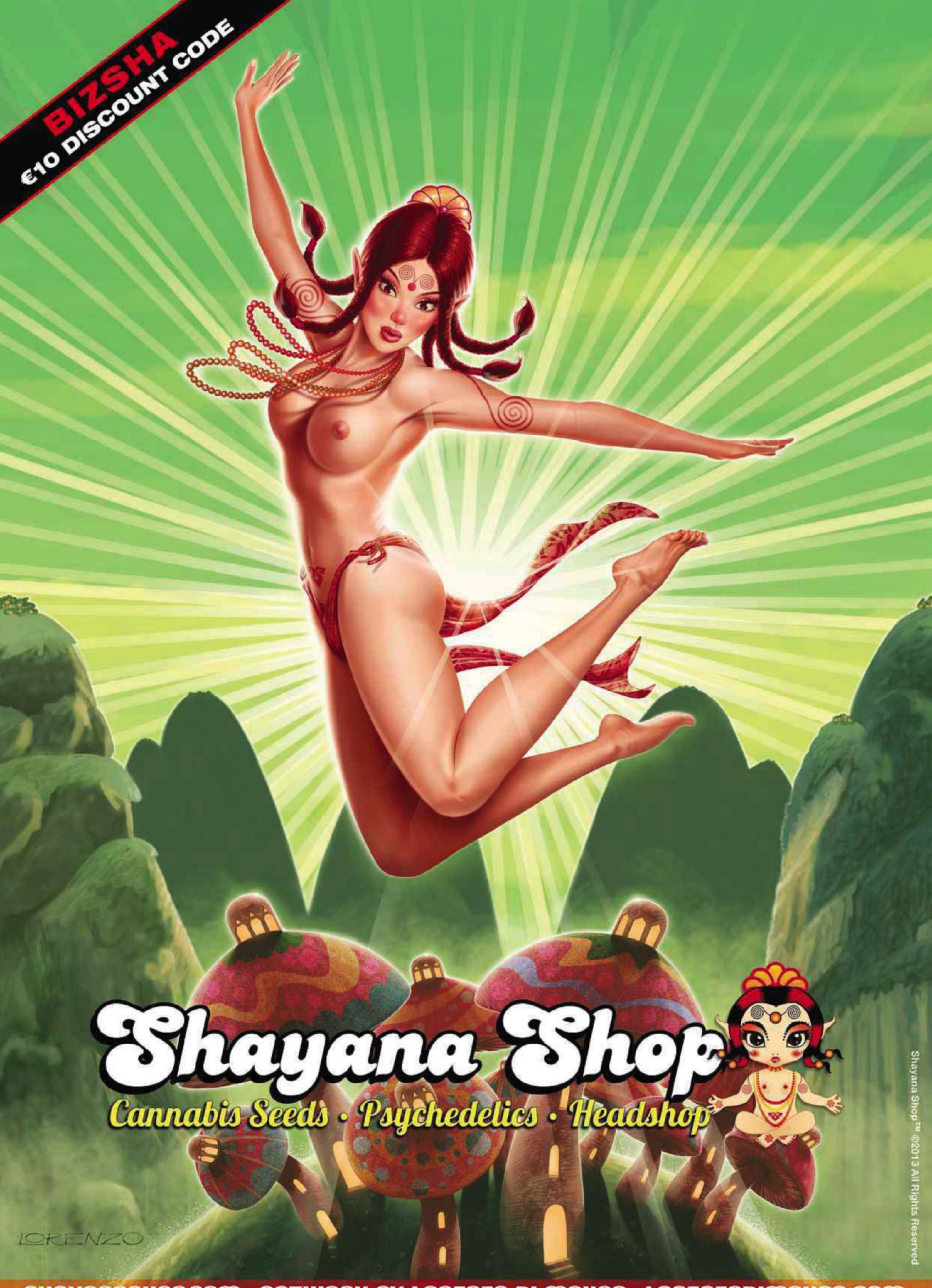

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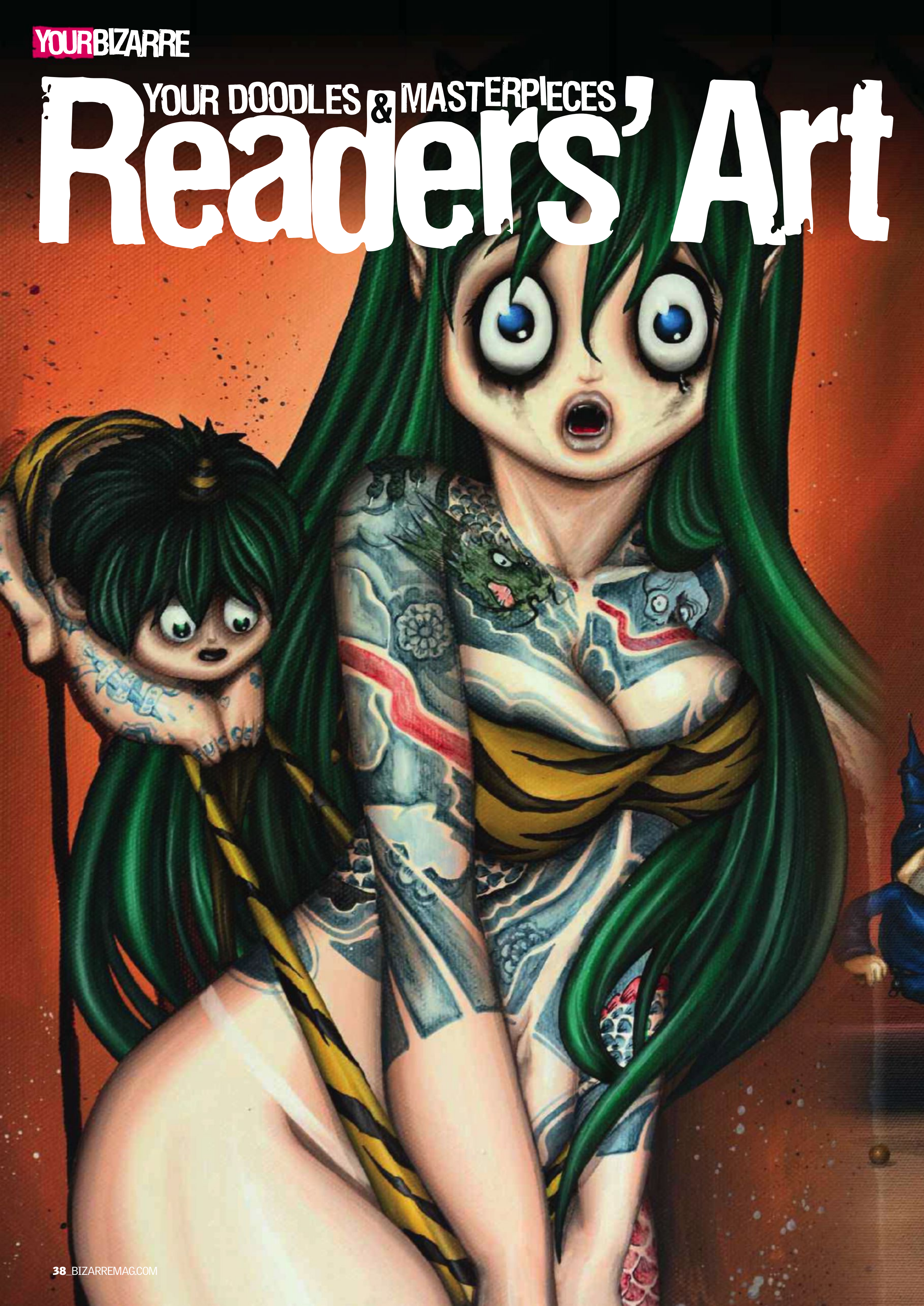
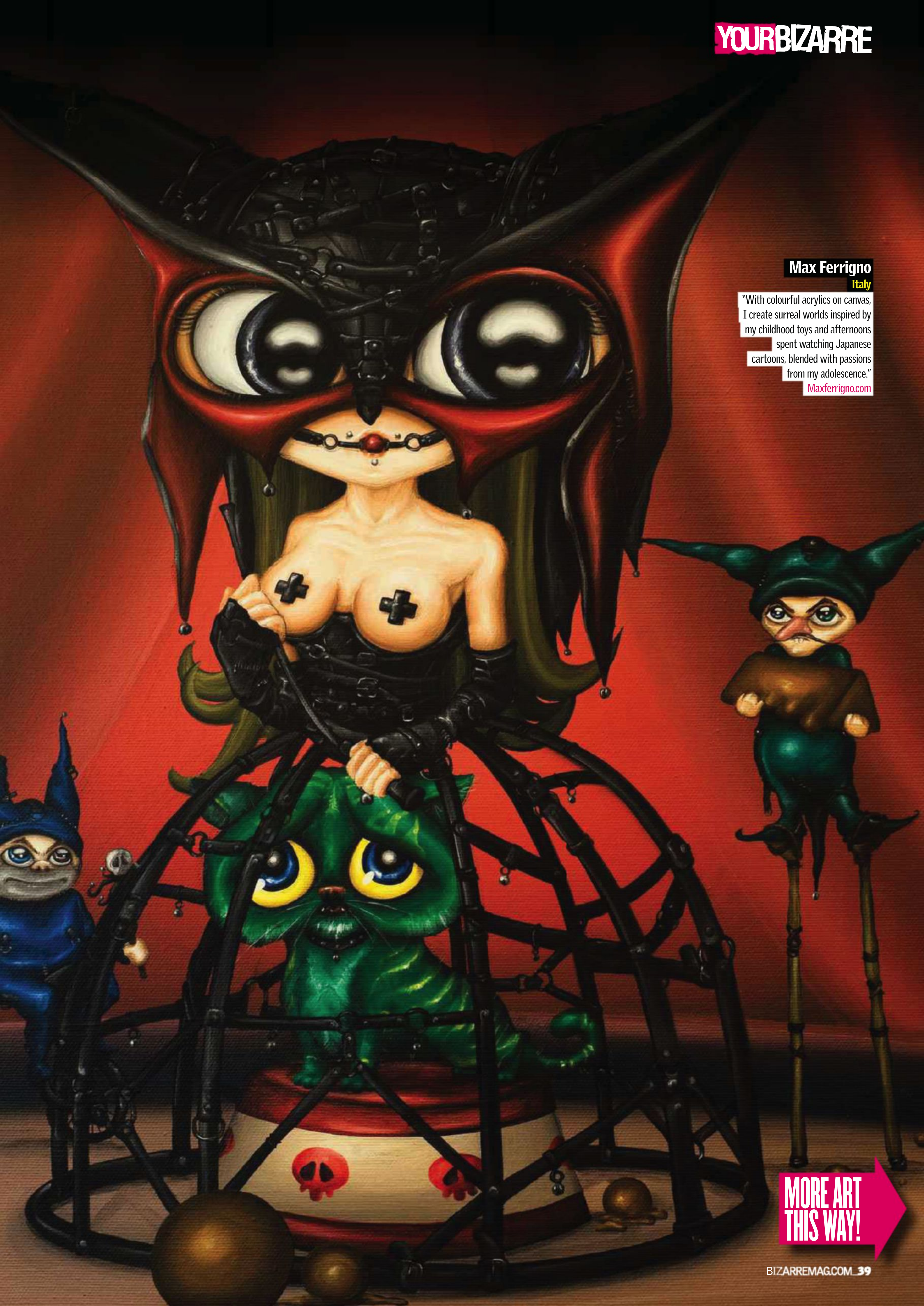




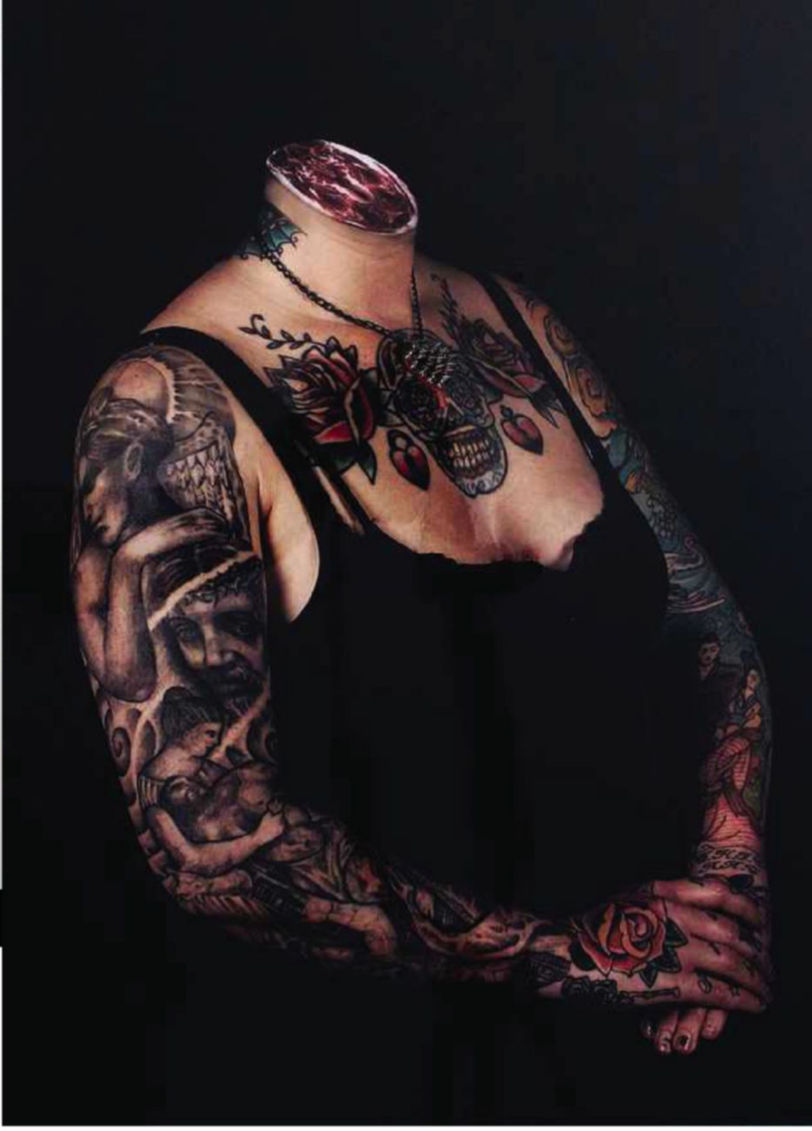
Max Ferrigno

Italy

"With colourful acrylics on canvas, I create surreal worlds inspired by my childhood toys and afternoons spent watching Japanese cartoons, blended with passions from my adolescence."

Maxferrigno.com

MORE ART THIS WAY!

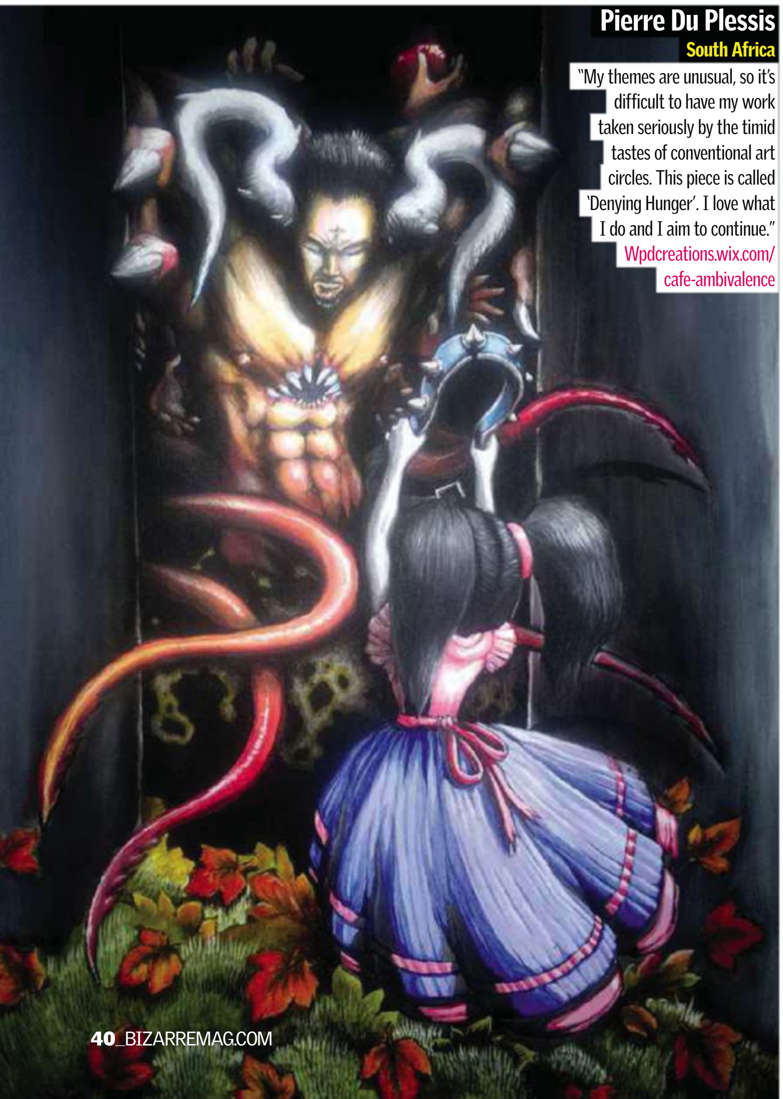


Emma Ray

Dublin, Ireland

"I'm a fine art graduate who likes to play around with the idea of what a portrait is. For this series of work, I used different animal necks to get an anatomically accurate decapitation to paint."

Facebook.com/emma.ray.10

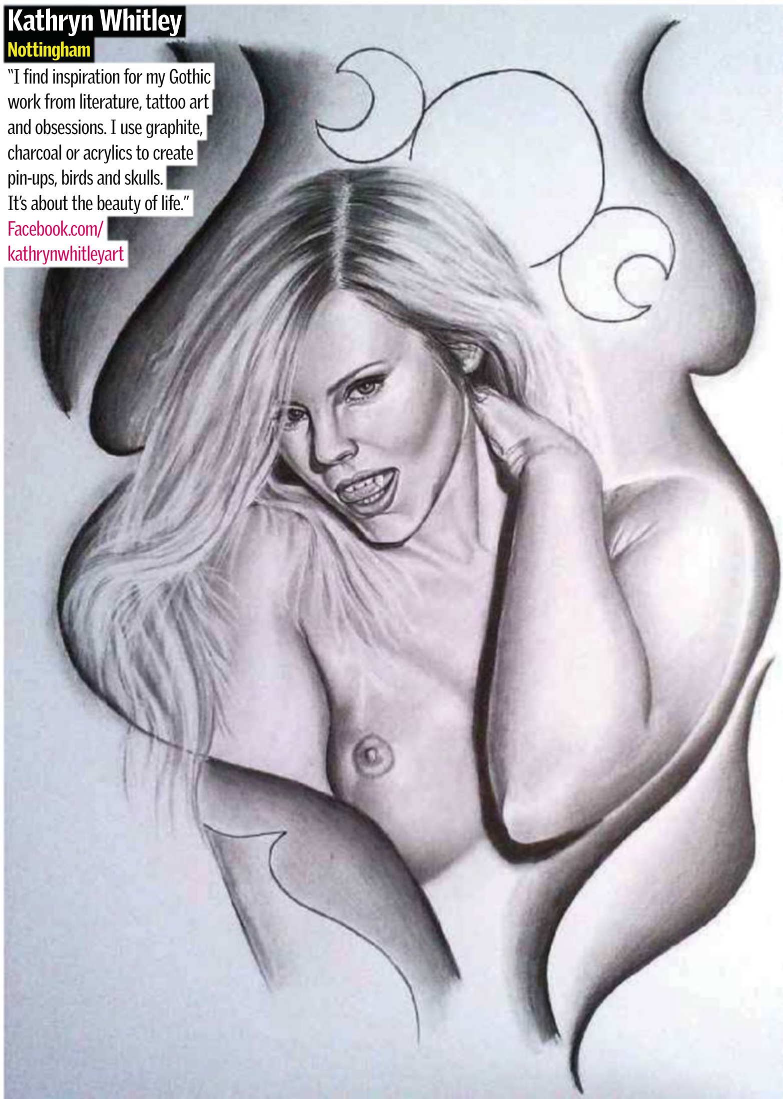


Pierre Du Plessis

South Africa

"My themes are unusual, so it's difficult to have my work taken seriously by the timid tastes of conventional art circles. This piece is called 'Denying Hunger'. I love what I do and I aim to continue."

Wpdcreations.wix.com/cafe-ambivalence



Kathryn Whitley

Nottingham

"I find inspiration for my Gothic work from literature, tattoo art and obsessions. I use graphite, charcoal or acrylics to create pin-ups, birds and skulls. It's about the beauty of life."

Facebook.com/kathrynwhitleyart

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BIZARRE'S Ultra Vixens

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CHRISTINEFURY

29, LONG BEACH, USA

"*Bizarre* is the only magazine to publish photos of me with my teeth out. I lost them in a horrible car accident when I was 18. I shoot without them because why the fuck not? I'm a punk pin-up!"

PICTURE: LE MEW PHOTOGRAPHY

MAISIE

19, ABERDEEN

"One of my American fans has my face tattooed on their body in a Day Of The Dead style. In my ideal partner I'd look for tattoos, a nice smile and a wacky sense of humour. Tie me up and treat me rough!"

PICTURE: CRAIG MASON

CHERRY J

22, BRISTOL

"I like to listen to heavy stuff, such as Dying Fetus and Gorgasm. I've done plenty of kinky things and I have sexual fantasies, but I won't go into details in case my parents read this!"

PICTURE: LEMONLANE PHOTOGRAPHY

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NIKKI WHITE

23, TORONTO, CANADA

"I'm a creative dork who loves videogames, cats and cookies. I'm inspired by Amanda Palmer from The Dresden Dolls and her passion. I drool over the beautiful hot chicks in *Bizarre* magazine."

PICTURE: ANDREA HUNTER

JENNA LEA

25, PLYMOUTH

"I'm a vibrant and feisty tomboy who likes kicking back with a badass horror movie or a night of gaming – I was naked when I broke my 100k Xbox Live Gamerscore. I once screwed a girl against a church."

PICTURE: LIZ COLE PHOTOGRAPHY

TALK TO ME!

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JENNA LEA

PICTURE: ADAM HIRONS

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Sign up to **UltraVixens.net** and you'll not only be able to submit your snaps to these pages, but you'll also be in with a chance of getting on the cover of the magazine!

Each month we'll will be scouring **UltraVixens.net** for new stars. When we've spotted 10 girls we like, we'll invite them to take part in a photoshoot in London, which will be printed in *Bizarre*. If any of the girls make the grade, they'll appear on the cover, just like PoppyThorn did (below)! Up for the challenge? Then sign up at **UltraVixens.net** and hit the 'Make Me A Cover Star' button on your profile page!

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"SOME GIRLS MIGHT FEEL PRESSURE TO SLIM DOWN, BUT IF I DID THAT I WOULDN'T GET TO SHOW OFF MY BANGING CURVES!"

"I DID A PHOTOSHOOT IN AN OLD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL INSIDE A PADDED CELL. I TRIED TO IGNORE THE BLOOD SPLATS ALONG THE WALL."

OUR NEW FAVES!

BIZARRE ART DIRECTOR DAVE KELSALL AND MANDATRON JUDGE NEW ARRIVALS ON ULTRAVIXENS.NET

PICTURE: AVENUE VORT PHOTOGRAPHY

AVENTIA VORT

Mandatron says: "Aventia describes herself a sci-fi cyber fairy and a pet play enthusiast. We've seen great stuff from this perfectly pale 18-year-old on UltraVixens.net, and look forward to seeing a whole lot more!"

Dave Kelsall says: "A lot of time and effort has gone into creating this and the result is an engaging and haunting picture. Good work!"

DENISE VALENTINE

Mandatron says: "This lovely Italian pint-sized pin-up will get hearts a-pumping with just one glance of those big, beautiful eyes! I think I have a robo-crush. Check out her expansive gallery on her profile!"

Dave Kelsall says: "Denise's favourite style is 1950s pin-up. Having been through all 150 pics on her profile (I know… hard work, eh?) I'd agree that this is her best look as some of the shots there are quite stunning."

PICTURE: PIRATE PETE / FOLLYHOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY

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MODEL: ANASTASSIA BEAR
PICTURE: JMODELPHOTOS

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Caity Stark (below) is one of our latest **LIVE CHAT** girls. Sign up and head to **Ultravixens.net/-trigger-** to book a chat session with her. To see the full line-up of **LIVE CHAT** Ultra Vixens, go to **UltraVixens.net/live**

PICTURE: MIKE CROSHAW – CROSHAW PHOTOGRAPHY

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SCARLET FEVER!

Globetrotting DJ, Jack Sparrow's secret bride and connoisseur of fine Italian wines…*Bizarre* welcomes back the sexy **Scarlet Duggan** into the fold

WORDS **STEPHEN DAULTREY (@STEVEYBIZARRE)**
MODEL **SCARLET DUGGAN**
PHOTOGRAPHER **CODEINEDREAM.COM AKA JAMES ELLIS**
VIDEOGRAPHER **TOM BROWN**
LATEX **SHHH! COUTURE**
MAKE UP **ALEX PALUMBO**
HAIR **MARK BRADLEY WHITE**
STUDIO **MURDER MILE**

Scarlet Duggan has become something of a legend here at *Bizarre* HQ. The last time this London-based Irish-Japanese model appeared on our cover back in 2010, we had her making out with an octopus and getting slimy with a squid. It was part of our 'octoporn' hentai shoot, and it's since gone down in magazine folklore. What's not to like about tentacle titillation starring a red-hot Londoner?

Since appearing in *Bizarre*, Scarlet has made a name for herself as a DJ, landing enviable slots all across Europe. She's played on boats and beaches, and has recently been living in Florence, arguably the most picturesque part of Italy. However, the only Italian trait she's picked up is a taste for the nation's finest wines rather than infatuation for opera. Still, we wonder if she got to sample the local octopus (wink wink)… →

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> "*BIZARRE* INTRODUCED ME TO THE FREAKISH WAYS OF **JAPANESE OCTOPORN!** I OWE YOU A BIG THANKS"

“THE MOST ITALIAN TRAIT I’VE PICKED UP IS DRINKING! THE ITALIANS LIKE ANY EXCUSE TO DRINK. IT’S A PHILOSOPHY I AGREE WITH”

Hey, Scarlet! The last time we had you in the mag, you were luridly tackling a sexy octopus. Have you had any more seductive scrapes with said tentacled beauties, or any other deep-sea creature for that matter?
How could I forget? I haven’t experienced anything quite as extreme since then, no. But I did spot a shark when I was out swimming out in Sardinia. That was kinda scary, but maybe not quite so sexy…

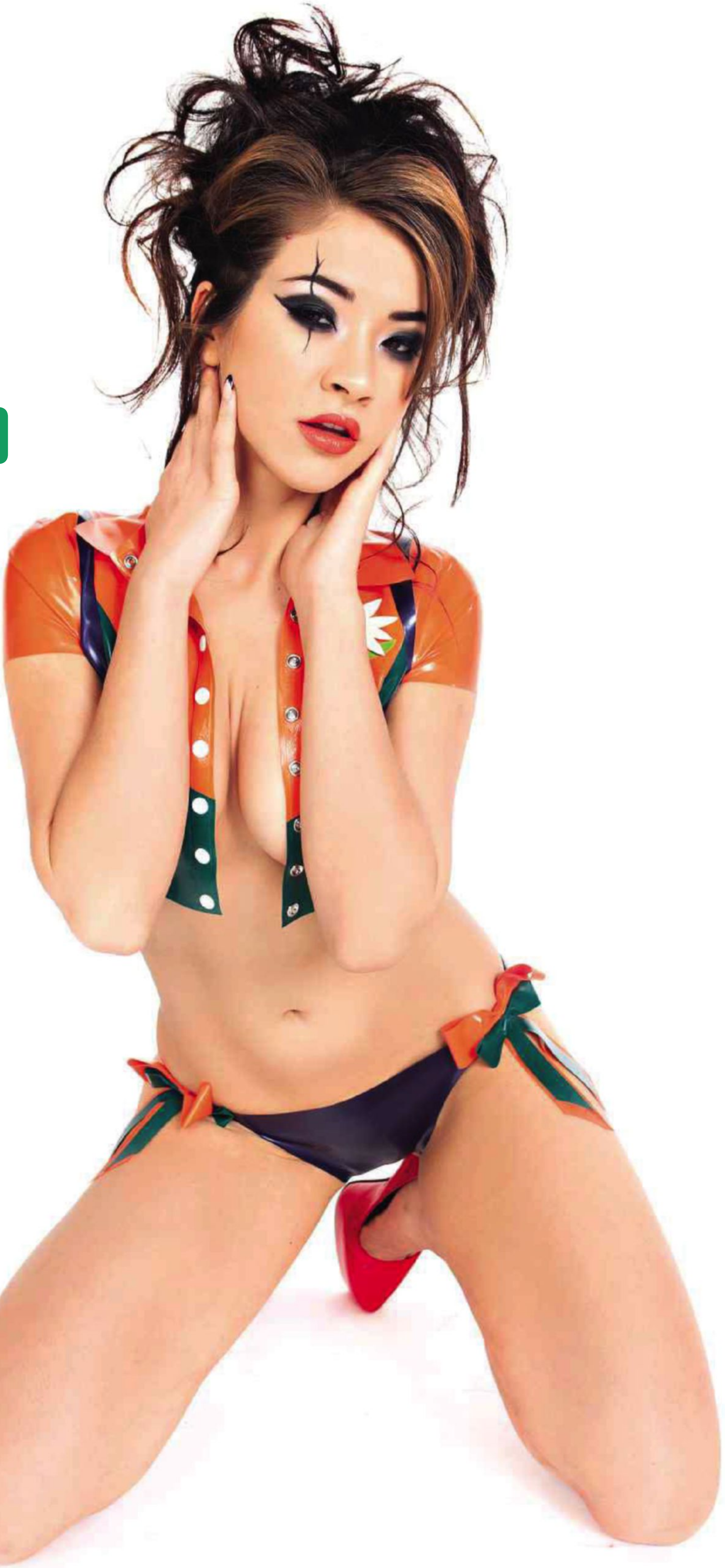
We had a nosey around your Tumblr page and noticed a reference to hentai. Did that shoot put ideas in your head?
Yes, you guys at *Bizarre* introduced me to the freakish ways of Japanese octoporn. I literally had no idea what it was before. So I owe you a big thanks for that!

Are you a genuine fan of octoporn now?
I’ve always been very open-minded but, to be honest, I just don’t really get down with tentacles, no…

Well, you can’t say we didn’t try… Also on your Tumblr page you’ve got a ‘fucking horoscope’ posted up there. What star sign are you and how accurately does the description in that ‘fucking horoscope’ reflect you?
I’m a Sagittarian and, according to the blurb, Sagittarians are ‘awkward fucktards’. I’ve got myself into trouble by dropping some dark jokes at pretty inappropriate times in the past so, yeah, I guess you could say that sums me up quite nicely… →

“I’M A BIT OF A **TRAVELLER.** IN FACT, I’M ABOUT TO DRIVE TO **VENICE** NOW, WHICH I ONLY DECIDED ON THIS MORNING!”

"YOU GET PIXIES AND FAIRIES AT FESTIVALS, AND I ONCE SPOTTED A GIANT DILDO!"



As a Pisces, I'm supposed to be a whiny bimbo. I think that's a bit harsh, actually.
I'm sure you can deal with it, mate.

Since we last spoke your DJ career has really taken off…
It's been great. I've played around the UK and recently in Italy too. I've played at big venues, little venues, on beaches and at festivals. They've all been pretty awesome experiences.

It should be pointed out that, as we speak, you've been living in fields for the past few months, riding the festival circuit. Are you the kind of lady who doesn't mind roughing it up in a field, and finding your tent infiltrated by a mooing cow at the crack of dawn? (Actually do you even get cows at festivals? What have I been smoking?)
You're right, you don't get many cows at festivals. But you do get a lot of drunken, confused substance-abusers that turn into messy little creatures by the end of the night. You also get fairies and pixies, and I spotted a giant dildo once…

You can't beat a random giant dildo encounter. What's been the wildest / best festival this summer?
It's hard to pick one. I'm currently in Croatia for the Outlook and Dimensions festivals. Beaches and boat parties are the way to go. But I definitely enjoyed playing →

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#KILLSTAR #666 #DUH

> “I GOT **MARRIED** TO A RANDOM DUDE AT A FESTIVAL. HE LOOKED LIKE JACK SPARROW AND OUR **‘PRIEST’** WAS A MAN DRESSED AS A **MERMAID**”

at the UK festivals as well, including Secret Garden Party, Boomtown and Shambala. I got married to a random dude at one festival. He looked like Jack Sparrow so it had to be done. The ceremony was short but sweet, and our 'priest' was a man dressed as a mermaid. But I was distracted by a girl who was sitting in a tree making strange bird noises. I figured she'd taken too much acid, so I went over to see if she was OK, but I never saw the guy again!

We recall you previously showing an interest in drumming for rock bands, and there's nothing more empowering than a female drummer. Has your DJing success led to you discarding those tub-thumping ambitions?
Definitely not! I've just been concentrating on DJing and also getting on the producing tip too. I think female DJs come close to topping female drummers, though. But maybe I'm biased…

We understand that you were recently living in Italy? Whereabouts did you move to and what made you decide to move there?
I was staying in Florence for a bit. I didn't have much of a motive to move there, I just went there on holiday and ended up getting booked for a few DJ slots. I instantly fell in love with the place and didn't really see the need to come back to England. I'm a bit of a traveller. In fact, I'm about to drive to Venice now, which I only decided on this morning! Then I'm heading to Portugal for the last summer rays before I have to hibernate for the winter.

Have you had any wild Italian adventures?
It was pretty calm, to be honest. They've got some really beautiful lakes and beaches, so I've been chilling out and generally being pretty lazy. It's nice to take it easy every now and again.

→

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“I’VE BEEN A DJ AT BIG VENUES, LITTLE VENUES, ON BEACHES AND AT FESTIVALS. THEY’VE ALL BEEN AWESOME EXPERIENCES!”

What's the most Italian trait you've adopted?
Probably drinking. There's a lot of good wine and the Italians like any excuse to drink. It's a philosophy I definitely agree with!

To see more of Scarlet, visit:
Facebook.com/pages/Scarlet-Duggan
Scarletduggan.tumblr.com
And ch-ch-check out her DJ sets at
Soundcloud.com/scar-duggy

> "I'VE GOT INTO TROUBLE BY DROPPING DARK JOKES AT INAPPROPRIATE TIMES, SO I GUESS 'AWKWARD FUCKTARD' SUMS ME UP NICELY!"

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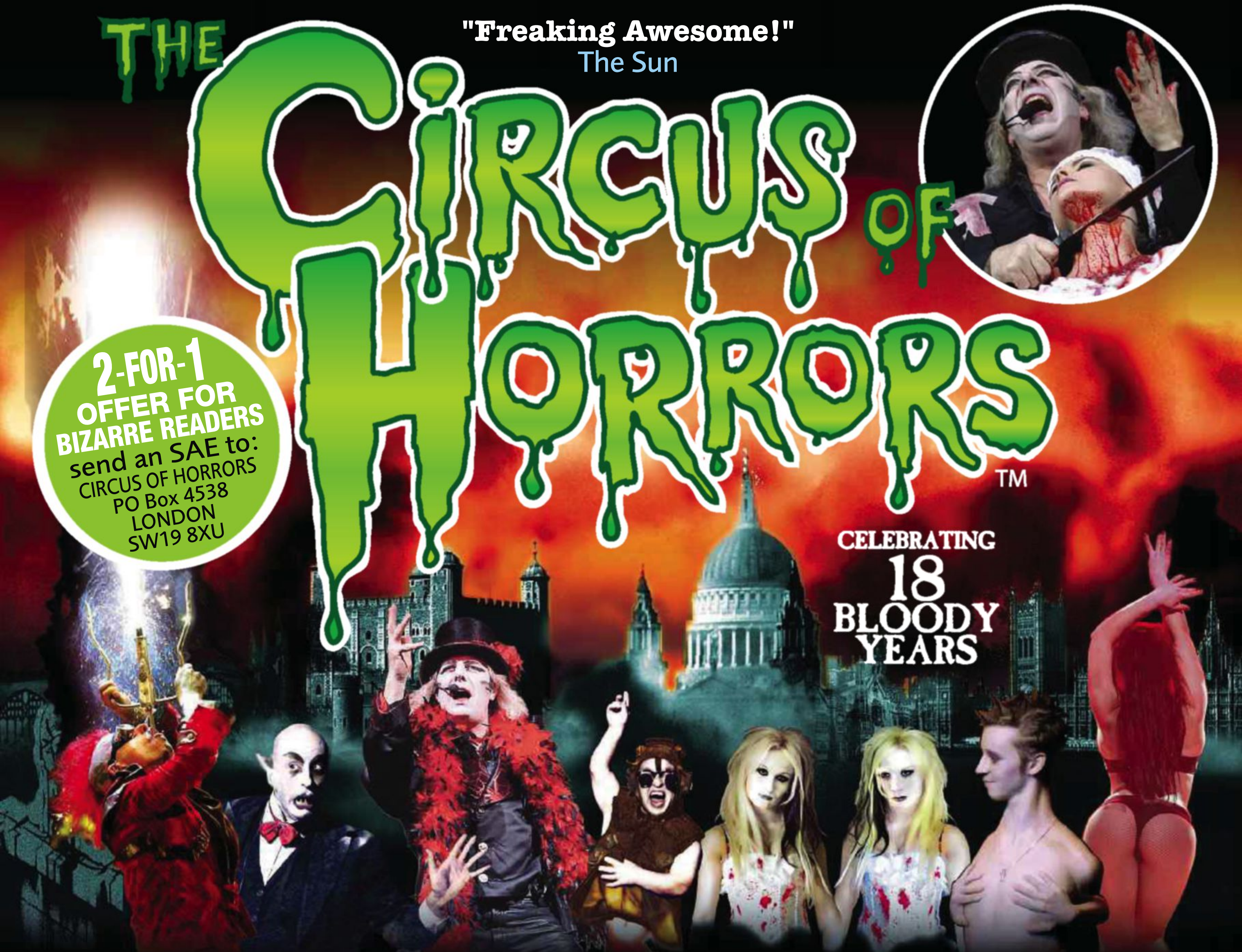

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ABERDEEN MUSIC HALL	**MON 17 FEB**	01224 641 122	www.boxofficeaberdeen.com T

T symbol = tickets also available via Ticketmaster
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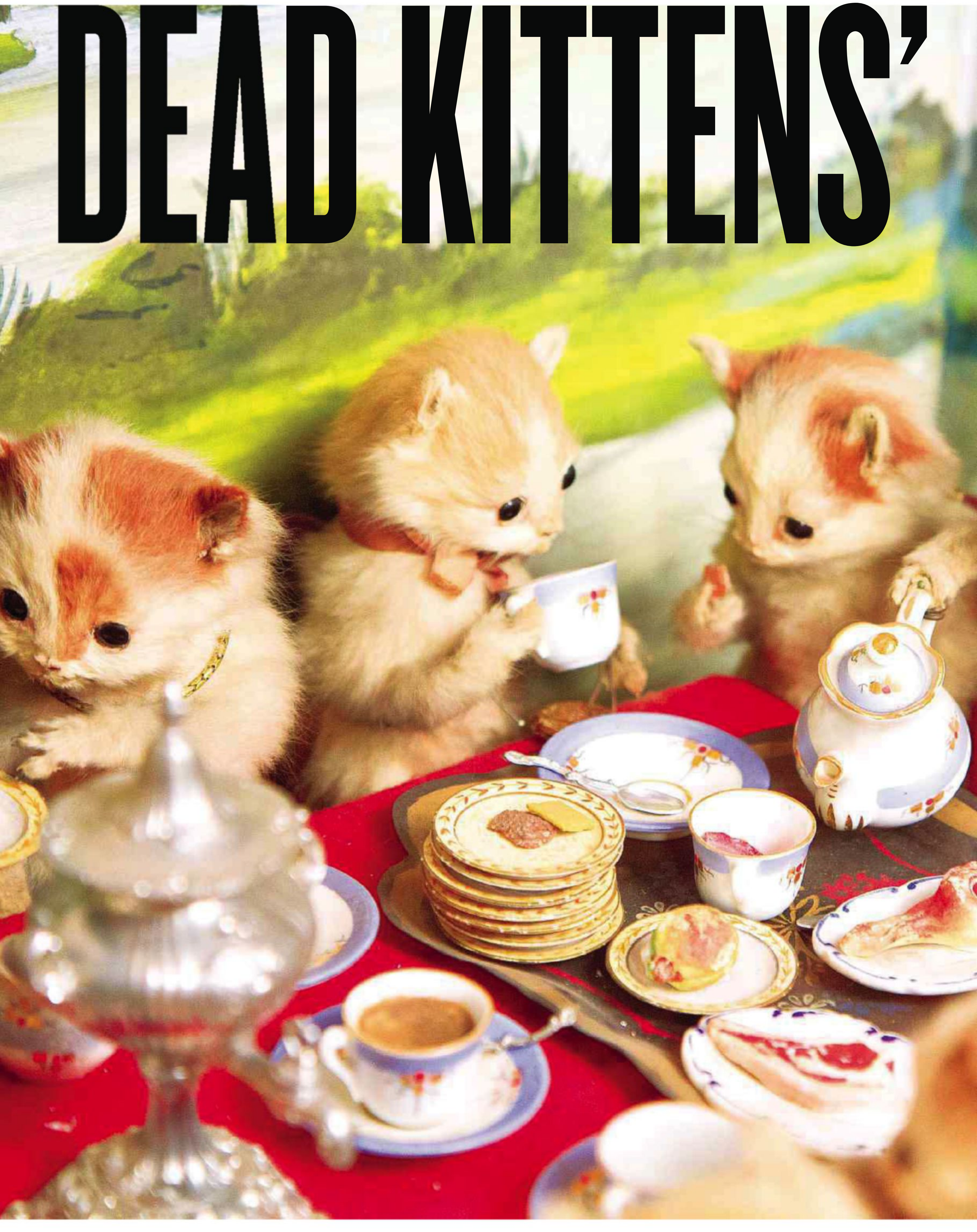
DEAD KITTENS'



TEA PARTIES

AND OTHER STRANGE DELIGHTS

WORDS **STEPHEN DAULTREY**
PICTURES © **PAT MORRIS & JOANNA EBENSTEIN**
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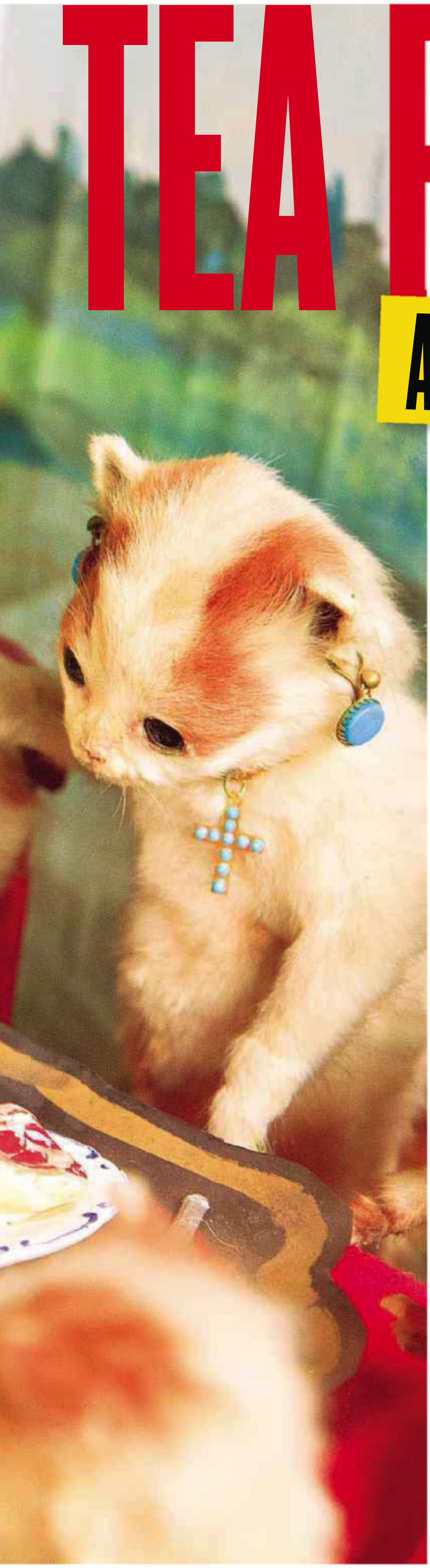
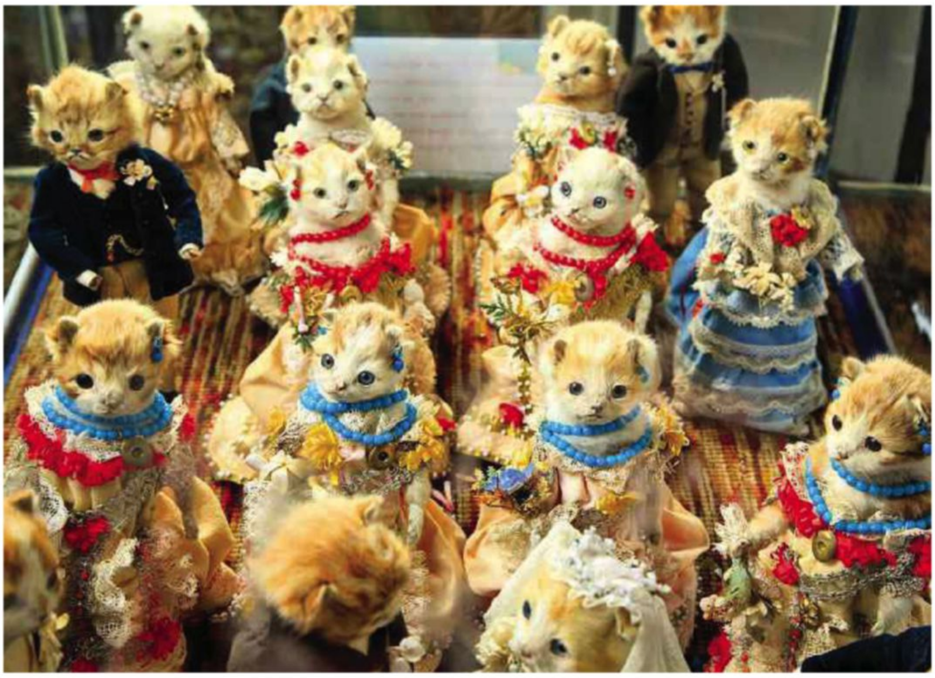


From dead kittens' tea parties to misshapen rats playing dominoes, the Victorian taxidermy of Walter Potter remains one of the most curious delights this country has ever produced. Ten years after his celebrated collection was split up in an auction, two enthusiasts made it their mission to reunite Potter's startling animal tableaux…

Not many collections of taxidermy run quite such an extensive gamut of adjectives as Walter Potter's Victorian whimsies: weird, cute, charming, funny, alarming, disturbing and WTF!? all spring to mind. But speak to anyone with the slightest interest in the art of animal preservation and you may hear his work described as 'amateurish', 'unskilled' and 'bug-eyed' as well.

"Experts who critique Potter's art often point to these bulging eyes he created, which are particularly prominent on his kittens," says Joanna Ebenstein, the curiosities curator behind New York's Morbid Anatomy and a co-author of *Walter Potter's Curious World Of Taxidermy*. "His animals don't really look like the animals they're supposed to be. They're stiff and awkward. But it can be argued that Potter was never trying to mimic nature. One of his pieces featured rabbits that looked more like something from a Disney cartoon. They were incredibly cute."

Walter Potter was born in the quaint village of Bamber, West Sussex, in 1835. As a Victorian taxidermist, he was the ultimate outsider artist of the (then) fashionable craft. Entirely self-taught, Potter exhibited little expertise or knowledge of conventional techniques, so he created epic anthropomorphic dioramas that humanised animals in a range of everyday situations, from →



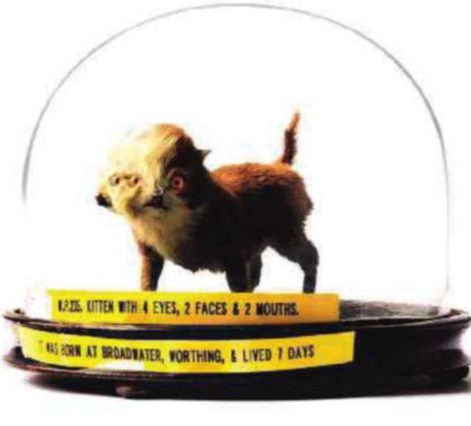
rats playing dominos to school kid rabbits studying in class. "They had a level of charm and peculiar attention to detail that helped them transcend what they are," says Ebenstein. "I could spend hours looking at each character – and I do call each of the animals a 'character', because that's what they are. They each harbour this incredible charm that's hard to put your finger on."

As a youngster, Potter exhibited an interest in nature and had already stuffed his family's pet canary by the time he started work on the epic 'The Death & Burial Of Cock Robin', aged just 19. Inspired by the illustrations from a book of nursery rhymes, this giant, 2m wide tableau took almost seven years to build and used 98 species of birds, including four that are now extinct in the local area. The centrepiece for this gripping construct was a funeral scene that featured a turtle dove mourner and four birds carrying a glass coffin with a cock robin inside. Young Potter ingeniously used glass to replicate tears in some of the birds' eyes.

Such imagination was merely the beginning. In the words of Ebenstein, Potter began to develop an "extreme interest or even personal obsession" in creating these captivating anthropomorphic settings. In 1866 his father, the landlord of a local inn, converted a summerhouse on the inn's grounds into a mini museum for his son's enticing art, ensuring that it wasn't just the local ale that would pull in the punters.

Ironically, around this time, Walter's namesake – Beatrix Potter – was born some miles north in London, and would become a cultural icon for her equally spellbinding tales of Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny. But despite the name and common interests, there was no family link.

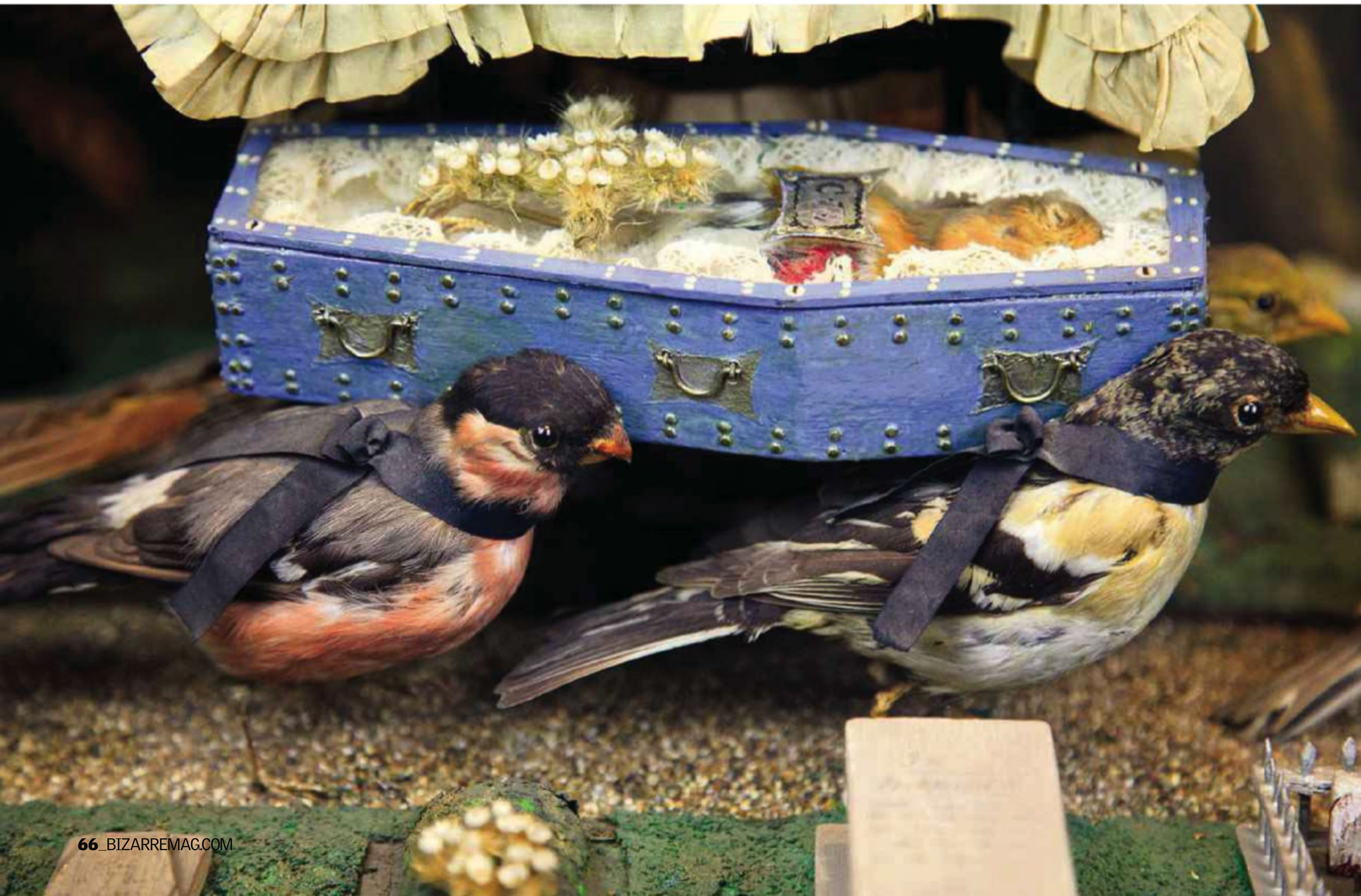
As Potter's reputation spread its expansive wings beyond the borders of his native Sussex, he eventually opened his own museum in 1880, next to his father's inn. His animalistic scenes multiplied, too. Highlights included 'The Upper Ten' squirrel's club, where squirrels played cards and puffed on miniature cigars, and the much-celebrated 'The Kittens' Wedding', which featured 20 kittens lavishly adorned in morning suits, dresses and, if you dared peek underneath, frilly knickers.


W.P.235. KITTEN WITH 4 EYES, 2 FACES & 2 MOUTHS.
IT WAS BORN AT BROADWATER, WORTHING, & LIVED 7 DAYS

Local farms donated dead animals, which famously included 'freaks' such as a three-legged pig and two-faced kitten. More typical to traditional tastes, the imaginative taxidermist would also take on sentimental commissions from townsfolk who wanted their own dead pets preserved, albeit minus the tea parties and school clobber. Potter's lack of conventional craft appeared to be inconsequential, and he became the town's go-to taxidermist. It earned him a decent living, but it was his museum that became Bramber's main attraction, bringing in tourists from far and wide.

Potter was 83-years-old when he passed away in 1918, having previously suffered a stroke in 1914. Following his death, Potter's daughter and son-in-law – and, later, his grandson – ran the museum. Despite a declining interest in taxidermy and growing, posthumous concerns of animal cruelty from the Victorian era (which were often quelled by Potter's descendents), the museum attracted many famous visitors during the 20th century, including the actress Diana Dors (Britain's answer to Marilyn Monroe) and Queen Mary of Teck, who was married to King George V.

However, changing tastes eventually took their toll, and both Potter's museum and collection were sold in the 1970s. Over the course of the next two decades the collection was uprooted several times, before finally being auctioned off in 2003, this time piece-by-piece in a massive two-day auction by →



“DAMIEN HIRST OFFERED A CRISP £1-MILLION FOR THE ENTIRE COLLECTION”

"THE TENSION BETWEEN PERVERSITY AND CUTENESS IS STRONG" JOANNA EBENSTEIN

Bonhams. It was, at the time, the biggest sale in the auction house's history.

Legend has it that Damien Hirst, said to be Britain's wealthiest artist, offered a crisp £1-million for the entire collection – but depending on which account you believe, his offer was either too late or simply rejected. Instead, individual tableaux were scattered among a global ensemble of collectors, dealers or, in the case of both Hirst and British pop artist Sir Peter Blake, other celebrated creatives. The most expensive item to be snapped up was 'The Death & Burial Of Cock Robin', which fetched £20,000.

Saddened by the auction, Dr Pat Morris, a retired biologist, taxidermy expert and scholar of Walter Potter, published a book about the taxidermist's work as a means of keeping his enchanting scenes together. But it was largely a DIY affair with disappointing images.

In order to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the auction, Morris enlisted the help of the connected Ebenstein to produce a more lavish and up-to-date edition, complete with beautiful new photographs that trounced any existing snaps. The result is *Walter Potter's Curious World Of Taxidermy*, a hardback edition that is nothing short of stunning. "It's also quite a funny book," says Ebenstein. "Pat is a wry writer. He gets the humour and perversity of these pieces and that shines through."

Updating and re-imagining the original tome created new adventures, with the duo working hard to locate many of Potter's pieces so that they could be photographed. It was a global mission, with destinations ranging from Chicago to Cornwall. In the end, Ebenstein says she succeeded in locating and visiting "about 90 per cent" of the major tableaux, with existing photography being used to illustrate the missing 10 per cent. "I was especially chuffed to find the kittens because nobody knew what had happened to them, but I discovered they belonged to a private collector in Chicago," she says. "We also got to meet Sir Peter Blake, who owns two major tableaux and houses a mini Potter museum in his own home. He's one of the most wonderful people I've ever met in my life, and very passionate about Potter."

Today, Potter's art is perceived on different levels. Back in the day those descriptive adjectives would have been limited to 'cute' and 'delightful', and a fine example of what is now known as Victorian whimsy. However, now there's an atmosphere of the macabre surrounding them. Observed through modern eyes, one cannot help but be disturbed by how Potter fell into possession of so many dead kittens and rabbits. In truth, it was simply a tragic trait of the period.

"To the contemporary eye, there is something wrong about Potter's work that didn't register in 1870s," admits Ebenstein. "The tension between perversity and cuteness is so strong. Take 'The Kittens' Wedding', for example; historically, we know that people didn't spay or neuter pets back then – they didn't have technology – so people killed kittens, usually by drowning. Potter was just using what was available to him. But today, when you see 97 kittens posed in a tableau that's 6ft long, there's this amazing tension between the perversity and the overwhelming cuteness of what's on show. Both resonate deeply. It just makes his work more fascinating." Ⓑ

Walter Potter's Curious World Of Taxidermy by Dr Pat Morris with Joanna Ebenstein is out now, published by Constable & Robinson

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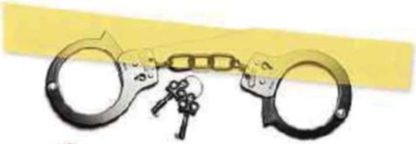

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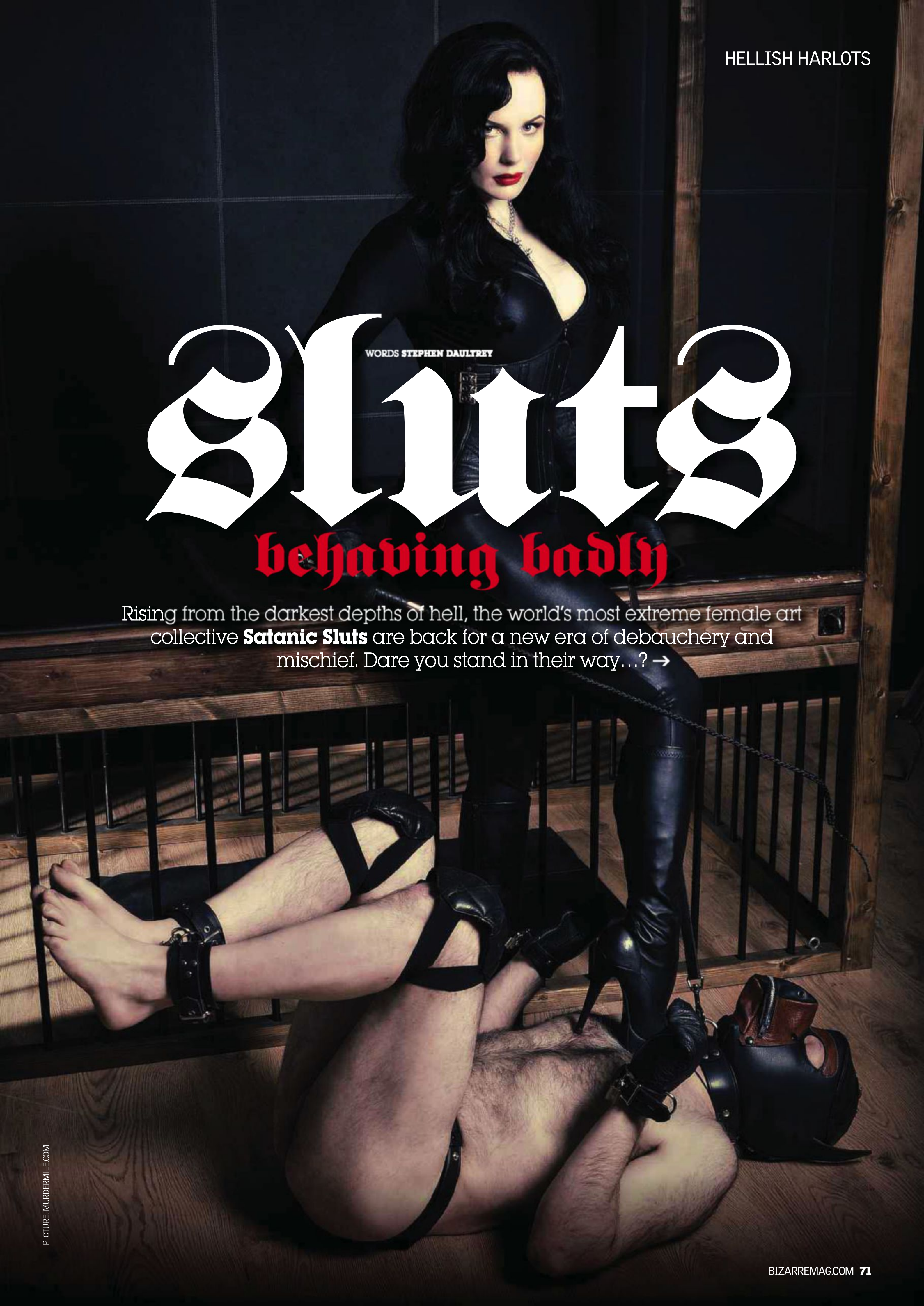

sluts

behaving badly

WORDS **STEPHEN DAULTREY**

Rising from the darkest depths of hell, the world's most extreme female art collective **Satanic Sluts** are back for a new era of debauchery and mischief. Dare you stand in their way…? →

PICTURE: MURDERMILE.COM

“There’s a great bit we filmed where I pissed right onto the camera,” recounts Satanic Sluts Kommander, Sophia Disgrace, describing her scene as though it’s part of her everyday routine. “Bianca and I also filmed another scene where we’re strangling each other with bags over our heads and there’s fake blood everywhere. But, you know, that’s all pretty normal for us. The Satanic Sluts will go anywhere and do anything. And then some.”

Sophia’s talking about her role in new film *Detroit Rising*; a bleak and savage journey into the psyche of a shell-shocked Iraq War veteran. Along with *Le Accelerator*, it’s one of two new arthouse flicks from director Thomas Eikrem, who’s best known in underground circles as the editor of the exploitation journal *Filmrage*. With their fetishistic debauchery, post-traumatic nightmares, kung-fu craziness and surreal B&W imagery, both films look like the sort of strange cinema that’ll get *Bizarre* readers’ knickers moist with excitement. And Sophia Disgrace appears in both of them.

Which slides us smoothly towards our motivation for these lengthy column inches, as both films feature members of the Satanic Sluts – the controversial, extreme art collective founded by exploitation / cult video label Redemption. Since the fallout of the Russell Brand / Jonathan Ross / Andrew Sachs radio scandal in 2008, the Satanic Sluts have been in hibernation. All that is changing, though… and changing with a BANG!

“With the appointment of a new Kommander, the exuberant Sophia Disgrace, the Satanic Sluts are emerging once again from the darkness,” warns Redemption founder, Nigel Wingrove, with a devilish glint in his eye. “Bizarrely, our book *Blood & Dishonour* was just featured in an episode of US reality show *Keeping Up With The Kardashians*. Perhaps the ‘Kardashies’ will also be releasing their darker selves and joining the Satanic Sluts as well!”

BAPTISED IN BLOOD

Founded in 2003 – part “accident” and part response to websites such as Suicide Girls and Gothic Sluts – the Satanic Sluts (confrontationally known as ‘SS’ for short) are, in the words of Wingrove, an edgy elite of girls who are “strong, sexy, creative and who have a hint of the devil about them”. Their goal is to push the boundaries of acceptability and taste through art, modelling, writing and “gorelesque”performance.

This was immediately evident with their ill-fated-but-near-legendary London club night, Black Mass, which ran for 12 months around 2005. Officially endorsed by Anton LaVey’s Church Of Satan (Redemption were publishing the organisation’s official *Rule Satannia* magazine at the time), the night was booted out of four different venues as the girls ran riot. In one instance, a Slut slashed her partner during an ill-conceived performance, almost fatally wounding her, which resulted in the

morrigan hel

Describe your wildest SS adventure?
Performing blood-soaked shows with Lydia Darling when touring with Godhead and Society 1 in 2004. I walked into our dressing room on the first night, and a member of Society 1 was filming a ‘home movie’ with some ‘fans’ on top of our suitcases. Rammstein also turned up to one of the shows.

What’s been your best SS performance?
At Salvation’s Black Mass club I painted myself red and transformed into a horned demon, complete with strap-on cock. The grand finale was ejaculating blood from said strap-on into the face of an angel.

What is the most Satanic / sluttish thing you’ve done?
I’ve been involved with the occult most of my life. One of my specialties as a (pro) Domina is ritual initiation. I regularly barbecue Lemmy with my partner Sophia Landi while fire-performing for Motörhead. I also run my own alternative adult playground, Murder Mile Studios. And I cause ears to bleed in my band Nemhain.

PICTURE: MARTIN WILSON

PICTURE: PAUL XERODE

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PICTURE: DAVE MURPHY

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PICTURE: ALEX TSANDER

> "I LOVE PUSHING BOUNDARIES, IT MAKES ME FEEL ALIVE" SOPHIA DISGRACE

melle noire

What does being a Satanic Slut represent for you?
It's wonderful to be part of a dark model platform like SS where there are so many other creative people from all over the world.
What is the most Satanic / sluttish thing you've done?
I have a very black sense of humour and I always love to make provocative and striking pictures. That's a lot of fun for me. But in my private life I am not really so Satanic, or a slut. I'm just a little Gothic girl...

PICTURES: BIRGIT HEIDRICH (BIRGIT-HEIDRICH.NET); THOMAS EIKREM

venue being overrun by medics and the girl in question arrested. Satanic Sluts have also stopped traffic during London film premieres, nearly injuring a driver while smashing up a car during an anarchic video shoot.

The aforementioned Brand / Ross / Sachs scandal brought more publicity Redemption's way (it was when the comics left messages on the answer phone of Andrew Sachs, grandfather of Satanic Slut 'Voluptua' AKA Georgina Baillie). However, not long after, Redemption went through an unrelated "tumultuous period" and the Sluts fell out of the (s)limelight.

But with normal service now resumed, the label is hoping that the Satanic Sluts can also resume their dastardly mischief. The two Eikrem films are only the beginning; there are new shoots, new videos and new writings in the works. And even reality shows and documentaries mooted. Expect all to be warped.

"Lots of things are being explored but I can't reveal everything right now," says Wingrove, remaining tight-lipped. "But let's just say the Satanic Sluts aren't going into retirement anytime soon."

KOMMAND AND KONQUER

There are currently around 200 girls in the Satanic Sluts, with more to be added. They all exhibit various talents such as writing, art and performance. Some are well known, such as Morrigan Hel, Dominick Destruction and Darenzia. Sophia Disgrace is the current Kommander, making her also responsible for running and recruiting for the collective, as well as indulging her artistic side with her modelling shoots, blogging and performances.

Despite only joining the SS "around six years ago", thus missing the lurid Black Mass club nights, Disgrace's background

→

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violet eyes

What does being a Satanic Slut mean to you?
I can discuss ideas freely. No matter how fucked up my performance ideas are, the girls get it.

What's been your most spectacular Satanic Sluts routine?
In *Detroit Rising* I got to perform my nun abortion act, which is a mixture of fire, latex and anti-religious themed naughtiness, setting Bibles alight and pulling an unborn baby from my stomach that's wrapped in rosary beads.

Have you ever got into trouble through your association with the Satanic Sluts?
Nearly! When I performed for the SS Christmas party I threw my intestines (obviously fake... not some weird diet fad) into the audience and they slapped an unsuspecting monster of a guy in the face. But later on he asked for a picture with me, and asked if he could keep my intestines!

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PICTURES: DAVID CLIC; THOMAS EIKREM

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PICTURE: MERLIN1 (FACEBOOK.COM/MERLINIART)

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in fetish performance, fire-eating, body piercing and generally being “a bit crazy” – coupled with her distinctively extreme alternative look – makes her perfect SS ringleader material.

“I was originally a professional body piercer, but I started performing with a friend in my local bar, doing routines that involved play piercing on stage,” she says. “During one of our first shows, I literally jabbed the needle right through my partner's breast rather than her nipple. There was a lot of blood. I look back now and think, ‘Oh my God, what was I doing!’, but luckily she was OK, just sore. I think she was as drunk as I was!”

Disgrace has been performing regularly on the fetish circuit for the last few years, making a big name across Europe for her wild, provocative shows.

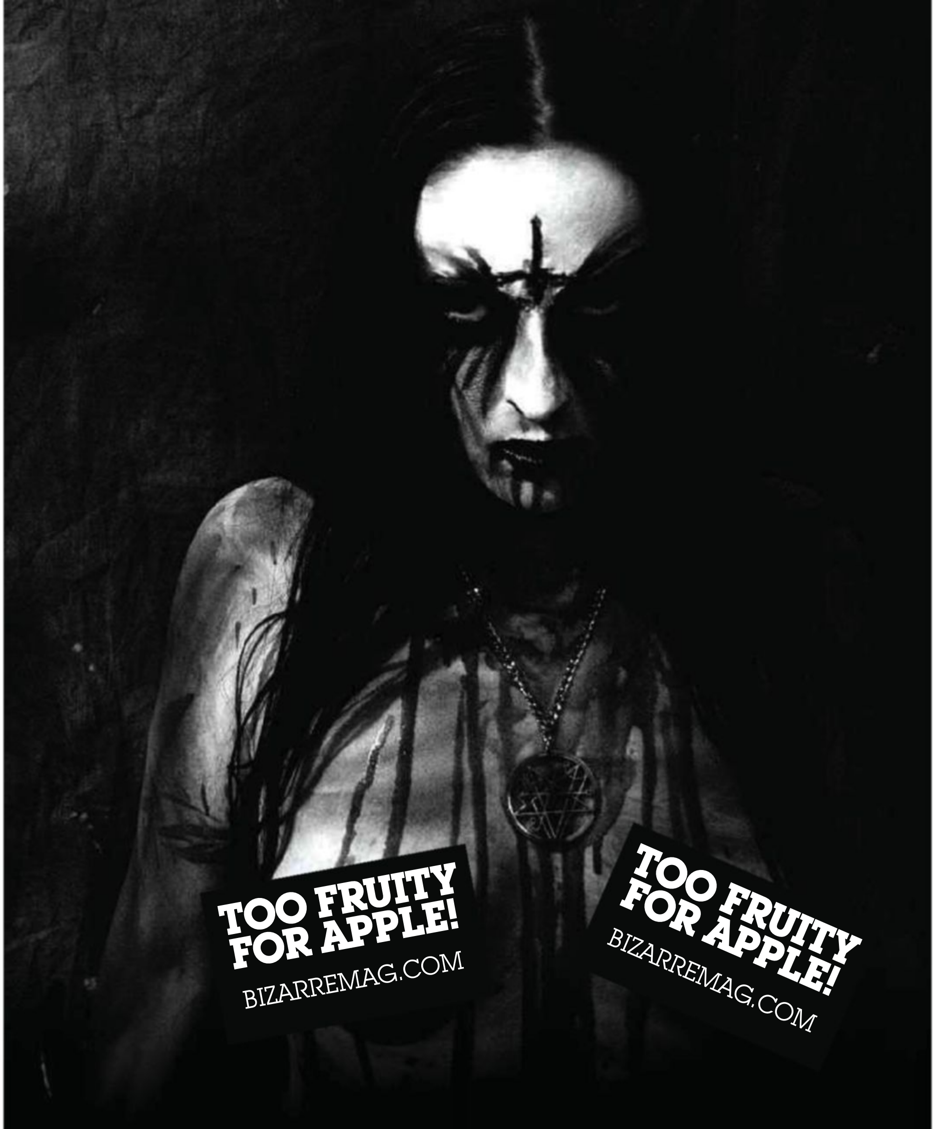
As an actress she's starred in the underground horror *Animal Soup* (2009) and the recent comedy *Kung-Fu And Titties* (2013), having auditioned for the former through an advert in *Bizarre*. At one point she also worked as a pro dominatrix, but confesses that she felt “a little out of my depth”.

“One of my first sessions was with this slave guy who wanted dildos shoved up his arse,” she recalls. “Because I was a bit anxious I forgot to use lube. He took them, though, but to this day I still wonder about the damage I must've done.”

DISGRACEFUL BEHAVIOUR

For Sophia, being a Satanic Slut is about not being afraid to go the extra mile.

“I love pushing boundaries, it makes me feel alive,” she says. “It's what I've done throughout my entire life. Most of the other Satanic Sluts have equally wild private lives. One of them told me how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“I MEANT THE SATANIC SLUTS NAME IRONICALLY AND STILL DO” **NIGEL WINGROVE**

PICTURE: CHEL LOGAN

elyssia

Can you describe your wildest adventure as a Satanic Slut?
At one of the club nights, Morrigan Hel and I performed our ‘Rape Of An Angel’ show, which had members of the press present. During our ‘rape’ scene, we got carried away and covered half the audience in fake blood that sprayed out the end of Morrigan’s strap-on. The press agents weren’t happy.

What is the most Satanic / sluttish thing you’ve done?
Losing my bisexual virginity to another original SS member the night after a performance while covered in fake blood and listening to black metal by candlelight is pretty high on my list.

PICTURE: AARON DEVILMENT

she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and visited a shaman. As far as I know, it worked.”

Yet despite Satanic Sluts’ provocative name and the disturbing undertones of its abbreviation to SS, Disgrace and Wingrove agree that the collective is slyly tongue-in-cheek, and representative of the exploitation, horror and art cinema that the Redemption label distributes.

“I meant the Satanic Sluts name ironically, and still do. The women see it for what it is: part confrontation and part fun,” Nigel says. “The Satanic Slut imagery, however, has always been more problematic. When the Black Mass club started, members suggested a uniform, featuring armbands and logos, which tended to make them look like an unholy combination of Girl Guides, fetishised witches and the real SS!”

When the Sluts are about, controversy and outrage are not far away. Despite only recently becoming an active unit again, the sensationalist headlines have already returned. Back in October 2012, Sophia Disgrace was kicked out of India’s first tattoo convention for doing a strip routine that organisers felt went too far…

“They stopped the music before I’d finished my strip and escorted me back to the hotel, and then moved me onto another hotel away from the convention,” the Kommander says. “I wasn’t aware of any commotion or uproar until I got home and saw the papers. It had been blown up massively and it was reported that I’d gone fully nude, that the guy running the hotel where the convention was held had been sacked, and that various groups were all fighting to have me charged. Meanwhile, I was out there having a great time, oblivious to any of this happening!”

Towards the end of 2012, Sophia did some filming with European feminist group FEMEN for the first in a series of fairly controversial, themed documentaries involving girls from the Satanic Sluts. She says that getting in front of the camera was great fun, especially as it took her to Ukraine and Paris. But she admits that she found the FEMEN group a bit puzzling. “They’re supposed to be a feminist group, but when I asked them about some well-known feminists, they’d never heard of them,” she says. “The lady at the top – Anna Hutsol – knows her stuff, but I think the girls underneath her, the ones taking their tops off, don’t seem to know what their stance is.”

DEADLY SCREEN BEAUTIES

Starring in *Detroit Rising* and *Le Accelerator* was a lot of fun for Disgrace. Thomas Eikrem’s debut features, shot in Super 8mm, feature locations as far-flung as Copenhagen and the Middle East. →

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PICTURE: DAVE MURPHY

Lucifera

What's been the wildest thing you've done in the Satanic Sluts?
The sight of a naughty nun has always excited me. When I got my latex nun outfit, I talked the photographer into shooting inside a church. The priest walked in while I was up on the altar. He left pretty sharpish! I didn't get the shots I was aiming for, but I have every intention of fulfilling this fantasy on film soon.

What's been your goriest modelling shoot?
Oh, I love gore! The mere sight of it excites me. I once did a shoot in a bath full of blood, posing as Elizabeth Bathory while biting on a heart. I have also frolicked naked covered in blood with an inverted crucifix. Some models wear diamonds and fur well, I wear blood well. The bloodier I am, the better.

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PICTURES: PWPIMAGES; THOMAS EIKREM

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"THEY LOOK LIKE AN UNHOLY COMBINATION OF THE GIRL GUIDES, FETISHISED WITCHES AND THE REAL SS" NIGEL WINGROVE

PICTURE: JAMIE MAHON

While *Detroit Rising* is a paranoid horror trip that pays homage to films such as *Taxi Driver* (1976) and *Combat Shock* (1984), the latter is, according to the director, a "dark comedy about an assassin" and combines "elements of 1960s French crime films and 1970s martial arts films". Its lead is Japanese / Danish actor-cum-martial artist David Sakurai. Eikrem is expecting both flicks to be released later this year.

Disgrace was one of four Sluts cast in the former, with Bianca, Violet Eyes and Elyssius completing the SS representation. There are also cameos from a variety of other fetish stars in the films including ex-Bizarre Ball star Hayley Leggs, Maria Popska and Alice Bizarre. Cult film-lover Disgrace was thrilled to be involved. "They remind me of an older period of cinema," she comments. "They have surreal, strange imagery, which works well with the Satanic Sluts. It was really inspiring creatively to be part of that. We'd be told to go for it and Thomas filmed it."

Eikrem adds: "Both film films are extreme, so I needed unique, extreme looks and out-of-control, highly sexually charged, ultra-violent performances. With this amazing cast, I never had to push at all; they all brought so much to the table. For *Detroit Rising* I needed to explore aggressive sexuality and military aesthetics. These deadly beauties pop up in the nightmares and psychotic flashbacks of our traumatised antihero. For *Le Accelerator* I needed, again, aggressive, death-themed sexual performances."

Thomas certainly got what he was after. And he can thank his friend and cohort in subversive cinema, Wingrove, for being recommended to them in the first place. After all, what can be more unpredictable or adventurous than working with a Satanic Slut…?

"One memorable moment during filming was when a burly, shaven-headed guy stopped me on the street and said that he had been watched me shooting Sophia Disgrace at a South Bermondsey industrial estate in London," the director recalls. "The guy asked if we had any plans of coming back because he thought Sophia was the most beautiful girl he had ever seen in his life – or in his words 'like a Marilyn Monroe from Hell!'"

For more on the Satanic Sluts visit Salvation-Films.com and Satanic-Sluts.com. Read the full interview with Thomas Eikrem on *Detroit Rising* and *Le Accelerator* at Bizarremag.com. For more info on the films, visit LeAccelerator.com and Detroit-rising.com. *FilmRage* Vol 2 No 12 is also out now

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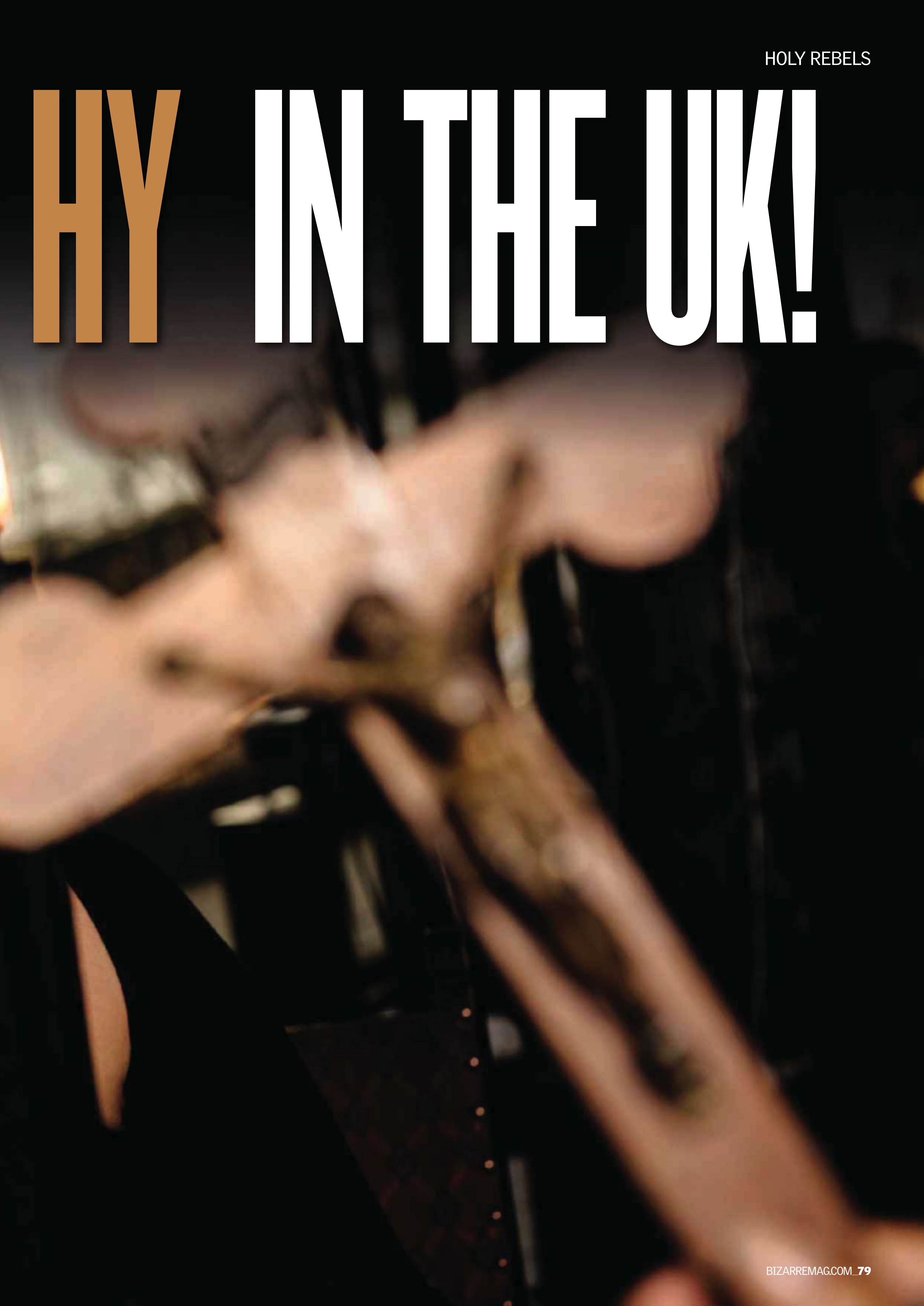
Take a trip inside London's alternative, 'anti-religion' Christian church, where love conquers all and even atheists, pagans and Satanists are welcome…

WORDS **STEPHEN DAULTREY (@STEVEYBIZARRE)**
PICTURES **MARTIN HOBBY (WILLSHOOTFORRUM.CO.UK)**
WILLIAM ADAMS (WILLIAMADAMSPHOTOGRAPHY.COM)

To the mainstream eye, dressing in black, listening to extreme metal, partying at Goth clubs, getting inked, piercing your body *and* being Christian could be considered a contradiction in terms. But there are several alternative Christian groups in the UK that are keen to shatter those misconceptions and worship Jesus in unique ways. London's Asylum is the most radical. So radical, in fact, that it even welcomes 'outsiders' with conflicting beliefs, including atheists, Buddhists and Satanists, making sure it prioritises one thing above everything else: Love.

"When I tell people I run an alternative church, they give me a funny look," says former Bizarre Ball performer, Miss Britain Kitten, renowned for her trademark cat ears and tail. "I think other churches judge us and even say we're pagan, occult or Satanic, and that we're compromising Christian values. That couldn't be further from the truth. We're returning Christianity to its roots by following the example of Christ as set in the Bible." →

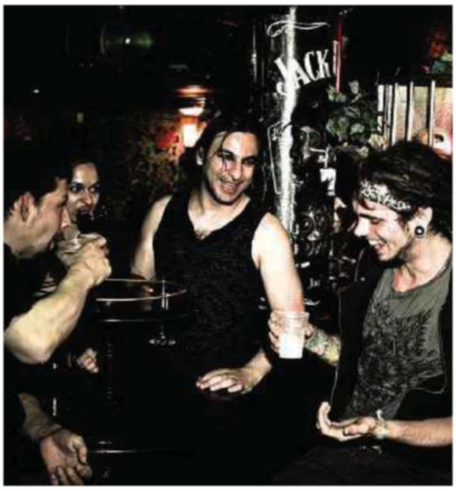
HY IN THE UK!



REBELS WITH A HOLY CAUSE

If there's one subject besides politics that's guaranteed to rile people, it's religion. When we interviewed Sexton Ming in *Bizarre 201*, the provocative outsider artist observed that the only way to shock society these days is to say you go to church and believe in God, and then suddenly "it's backs against the wall, lads!" And with its monthly club nights, black fashion, discussions on Church-grimacing subjects such as masturbation and alternative sexuality, Asylum risks flak from believers and non-believers. But its members don't care.

"A light in the darkness describes us best," says Martin Brown, a long-haired charity web technician who has co-run Asylum since it started. "We want to be like Jesus, who hung out with the alternative people of his generation, and prove that Christianity is loving, not condemning."



A registered charity, Asylum holds church every Sunday afternoon, and begins and ends each meeting with group prayer. But it's not a traditional place of worship. For a start, it takes place upstairs in London's renowned heavy metal pub The Intrepid Fox, surrounded by posters of Slipknot, Motörhead and The Doors. There's also an image of the original Christian man-in-black Johnny Cash, flicking the finger in an iconic anti-establishment pose.

As a church, Asylum has no hierarchy or ordained minister preaching sermons to its flock. Instead, meetings are centred around intelligent and philosophical spiritual discussions on topical issues, hosted by a different group member each week. Britain says the approach is modelled on early Christian churches; there are no traditional hymns, and Asylum's worship can include theatre, art, poetry and rock music. Afterwards, everyone enjoys a meal and drink together.

The Asylum club night, currently held every second Sunday of the month in the Fox, raises awareness for other charities and includes dance, quizzes and performance. Earlier this summer, Britain brought her pet polecat and skunk to support an animal charity Asylum was promoting.

Asylum considers itself 'spiritual' rather than 'religious', with the view that religion is man-made. Its members believe their faith is about relationships and love with action, not rules and rituals. Its members once dubbed themselves 'Christianarchists', but avoid overusing of the term because of its misleading implication of chaos and disorder.

"Christians should be as radical as they were when the religion started, and I feel Christianity has lost its way by being too close to the mainstream," says Martin. "I'm sure people came to see Jesus because he was so different to anyone else, and we should live up to that. Some of my friends spend time with the homeless or work with people that have been abused. I think that is far more Christian than sitting in a church for an hour a week."

LEADING THE CRUSADE

Asylum was founded in the 1990s by Billie Sylvain, a popular figure of London's alternative scene who hung out with the punks in Piccadilly Circus. Back then the group was called Street Warriors, and its members made friends with alternative people in London and supported the scene. When Pat, the landlord of The Intrepid Fox, offered Billie use of the pub on Sundays, the group became an indoor fellowship and changed its name to Asylum, as in 'safe place'. "Pat isn't remotely Christian," says Britain, "but he liked the concept because it promoted choice and love."

Asylum's weekly meetings are small and intimate, but it also has a large database of members, most of whom would feel uncomfortable in conventional churches. Among those is Mark, "a relative newbie", who has been attending Asylum for the last 18 months. Describing himself as a "reformed Satanist", Mark had been intensely involved in black magic from a young age and says he is still recovering. For him, Asylum offers both spiritual rehabilitation and a safe haven for worship, where he is joined by sympathetic people who, rather than being disturbed by his history, offer support.

"I was heavily into Satanism, witchcraft and the occult for 15 years, which really messed me up and nearly killed me," he confesses. "I found a YouTube video of an ex-Satanist who became a Christian, and it shocked me because his experiences were so similar to my own. I found more testimonies of ex-Satanists and occultists, and suddenly Jesus opened my eyes that I had been living a lie. I heard about Asylum at one of its events in the (London Goth nightclub) Slimelight. It has a nice mix of people that are open and non-judgemental. If I went to a conventional church and told them I'm an ex-Satanist, they'd freak out."

FRIENDS UNITED

Although often very different to Mark, other Asylum members claim to have had "spiritual" or supernatural experiences that inspired them to choose their faith. But it's not only Christians that Asylum attracts – they get people of other belief systems, too. Paul, an atheist, has been going to Asylum on and

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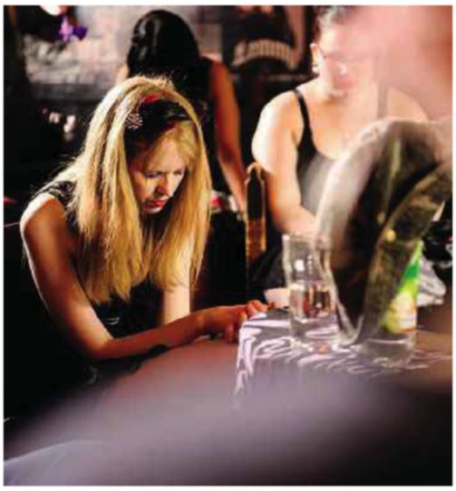
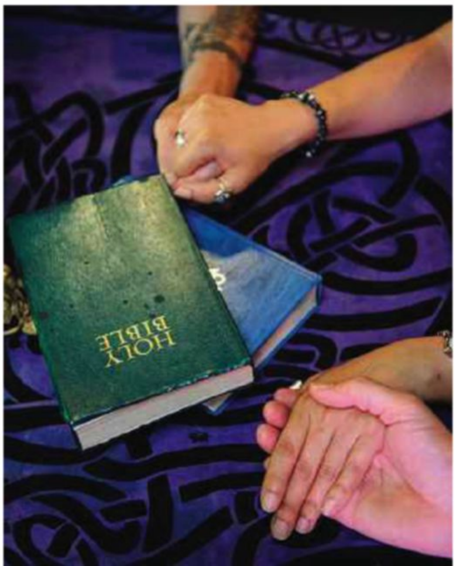
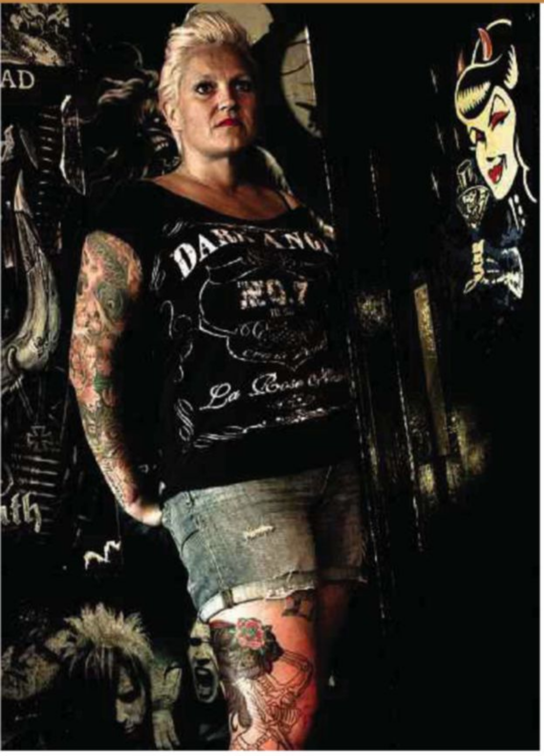




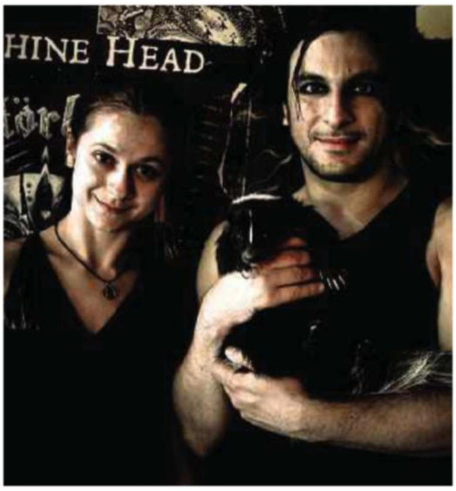
"IF I WENT TO A CONVENTIONAL CHURCH AND I TOLD THEM THAT I WAS AN EX-SATANIST, THEY'D PROBABLY FREAK OUT!"

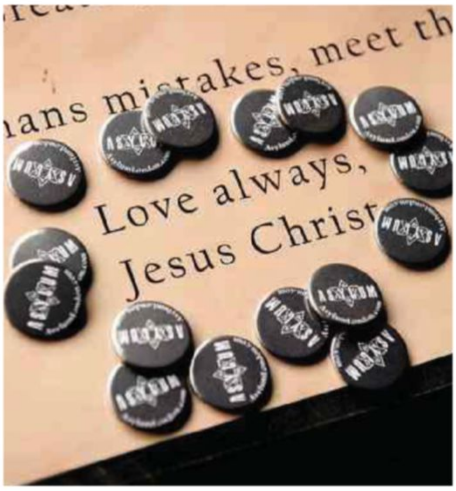


off for the last two-and-a-half years, having heard about it through an “associate”. He admits that he’s completely closed to the idea of a god, but the selflessness of Asylum appeals to him.

“My personal belief is that there is life in the universe, but the other life is smart enough to avoid Earth as humans are generally mad,” he says. “I have been a non-God believer since before I left secondary school because I had a choice. But what I like about Asylum is the conversation, the debates, and knowing that there are some people who care about the whole, not just themselves. What I get from Asylum is comradeship.”

FireChild, a Canadian-born Goth who often performs dances at Asylum’s club night, is a pagan who constructs spells and rituals as part of her beliefs. Yet she doesn’t consider her spirituality to be in conflict of the group’s Christian environment.





Life sucks?
Get a new one...

“They’re a small, supportive, non-judgemental group where everyone has a chance to speak about whatever they like,” FireChild says. “Personally, I find the venue stimulating; seeing all the posters of legendary rock stars, occult designs and album covers sparks my spiritual side far more than a lot of the boring churches I was made to go to when I was younger. When I first heard about it through a friend I thought, ‘Goth church, that sounds cool!’”

Inevitably, some non-believers come to stir trouble or create conflict. But Britain says that on the few occasions when this has happened, they’ve ended up having friendly and open-minded discussions. “One Satanist claimed, ‘I’m smarter than you, I’ve researched this subject, I know this and I know that,’” she says. “But we were like ‘that’s cool’, and then we calmly explained why we believe something different. Faith should be intelligent, not blind. We encourage people to challenge, question and explore what it is they choose to believe. I’d never tell someone they have to be a Christian; people should have their own personal experiences to find out for themselves.”

As for why so many non-Christians enjoy Asylum, Britain thinks it runs deeper than mere discussion and friendship. “Whether people believe in Jesus or not, they still feel the love that we as members of Asylum strive to project. People of other faiths can come away from Asylum with a more positive and true idea of Christianity, and from that a million different beautiful things can grow. We are breaking down barriers of hate.”

A QUESTION OF FAITH

Asylum’s members continue to reiterate the message that they remain faithful to the early vision of Christianity presented in the Bible, where it is claimed Christ spent time with the outsiders of his day – prostitutes, thieves and taxmen – rather than hang out at the temples. Similarly, Asylum considers itself a refuge for ‘outsiders’ who are scared of being judged by the modern Church for their lifestyles, sexuality, tastes and unconventional dress.

But can you really listen to Slayer records, dress as a vampire, take drugs and still believe in and feel close to God? Or is that taking things too far?

“As an alternative Christian I listen to plenty of alternative music that doesn’t contradict my beliefs,” says Britain. “But I admit there are some bands that I personally struggle listening to, even though I may enjoy their music, because their lyrics are disrespectful towards something I am passionate about. As for fashion, I think other Christians might say we look evil, but in the Bible Jesus said to the Pharisees (Jewish religious leaders of the period), who were judging his followers, ‘You are like dead men’s bones in white washed tombs,’ meaning ‘you may look perfect on the outside, but you’re dead on the inside’. We believe God would rather have a loving person wearing black than someone dressed ‘normally’ living a deceitful, selfish life.”

As for the sex, drugs and rock’n’roll cliché, which is readily associated with alternative subcultures, Britain says nobody at Asylum judges individuals for the personal choices they make. She says they have people in all sorts of states, whether they drink or do drugs. But Asylum sees it as its duty to support a person’s strengths and offer friendship and, more importantly, inspire through love.

“If there are unhealthy aspects in someone’s life, we believe there can be a natural progression for them to change through their own spiritual journey,” Britain says. “It’s our job to love and accept them, not judge. When people are told what they can or can’t do, they feel resentful, guilty or ashamed and are less likely to change, which is where I think a lot of churches get it wrong. Jesus loves everyone no matter who they are, and love heals.”

HOLY WARS

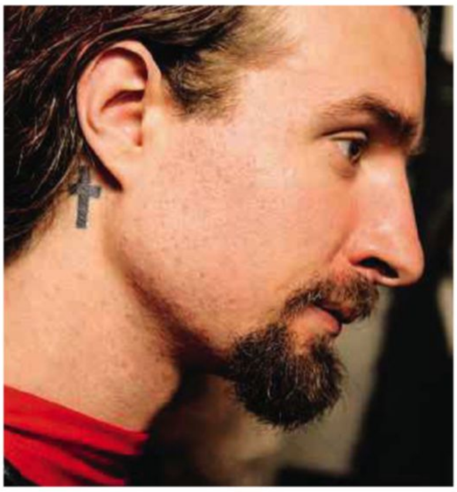
Some traditional churches support Asylum, such as the neighbouring St Giles-In-The-Fields Anglican church. However, despite championing love as its core essence, Asylum has also dealt with criticism from other churches. Martin says he was treated with suspicion by a modern parish where he was working. “Someone had visited Asylum and didn’t like it and that relayed back to the parish,” he says. “My other church eventually accepted me, but they still didn’t understand the Goth / Christian thing.

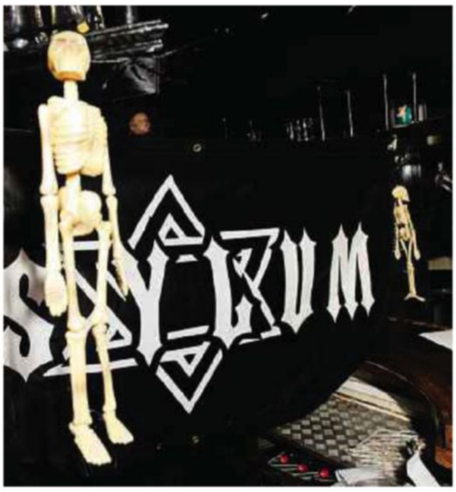
"JESUS WAS ABOUT SPREADING LOVE, PROMOTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND BREAKING DOWN THE HIERARCHIES. WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?"

I think it's the darker side of Gothic they don't like, which is strange as vicars tend to wear black!"

More recently, the BBC website ran an article on alternative Christian groups, where one church minister questioned Asylum's motives and asked whether it was making the challenges of the Bible clear to people, such as the "challenge" against gay marriage. An exasperated Britain dismisses the remark as a "ludicrous comment".

"We're not promoting any set mantra for Christianity," she says, sounding frustrated. "Asylum provides an unbiased Christian meeting place for people with different viewpoints who can come and discuss things such as gay marriage in a respectful way. We are a place where people can spiritually talk about these issues and not feel judged and get love and support, whatever their views or interpretations of the Bible are."





THE CHURCH THAT BRITAIN BUILT

How far does Asylum see itself growing from here? Would expansion make it unmanageable? Martin admits they could "lose the family atmosphere". But he's sure of one thing: the fellowship needs fresh outsiders to carry the mantle. "And there's usually at least one kid in church that doesn't fit in and would benefit from coming to us," he says.

Rewind to 1998, and this disillusioned kid was Britain. However, at age 15, she found confidence to set up her own church in her native Bakersfield, USA. At age 20 she had a vision to do the same in the UK. "I was watching the EBM band Covenant at a gig in LA, surrounded by all these cool alternative people, when I had a sudden, overwhelming vision. When I moved to London months later, I discovered the alternative church that I'd profoundly envisioned already existed. Now I co-run it."

Britain has a final message for anyone quick to dismiss her faith: "A lot of people have had negative experiences with church or fall into the modern belief, without much proof, that God is an outdated fairy tale. People should wipe the slate clean, go on their own spiritual journeys, do their own research. If you study Jesus, you'll find he was spreading love, promoting equality, women's rights and breaking down the religious hierarchies. What's not to like?"

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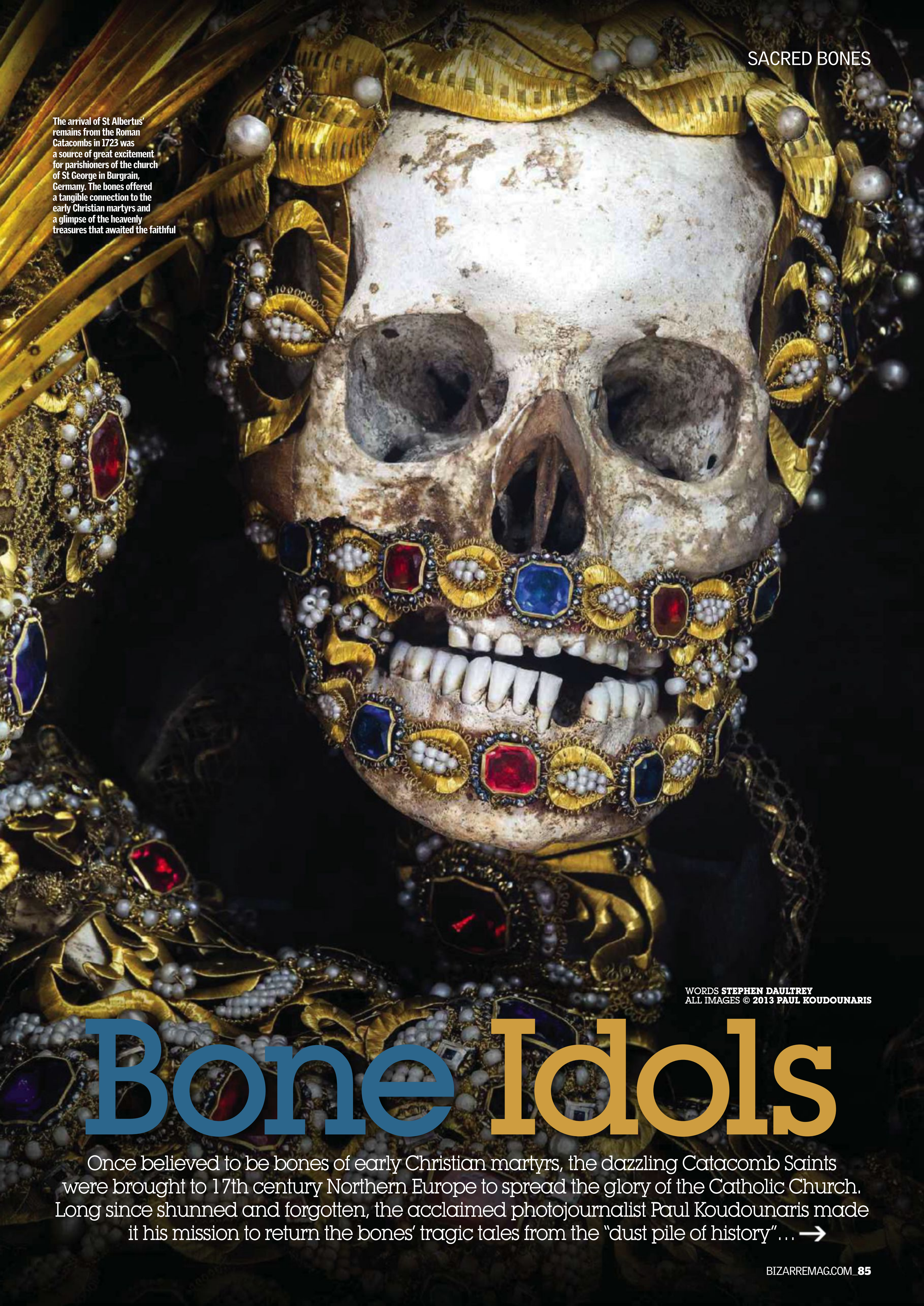


The arrival of St Albertus' remains from the Roman Catacombs in 1723 was a source of great excitement for parishioners of the church of St George in Burgrain, Germany. The bones offered a tangible connection to the early Christian martyrs and a glimpse of the heavenly treasures that awaited the faithful

WORDS **STEPHEN DAULTREY**
ALL IMAGES © **2013 PAUL KOUDOUNARIS**

Bone Idols

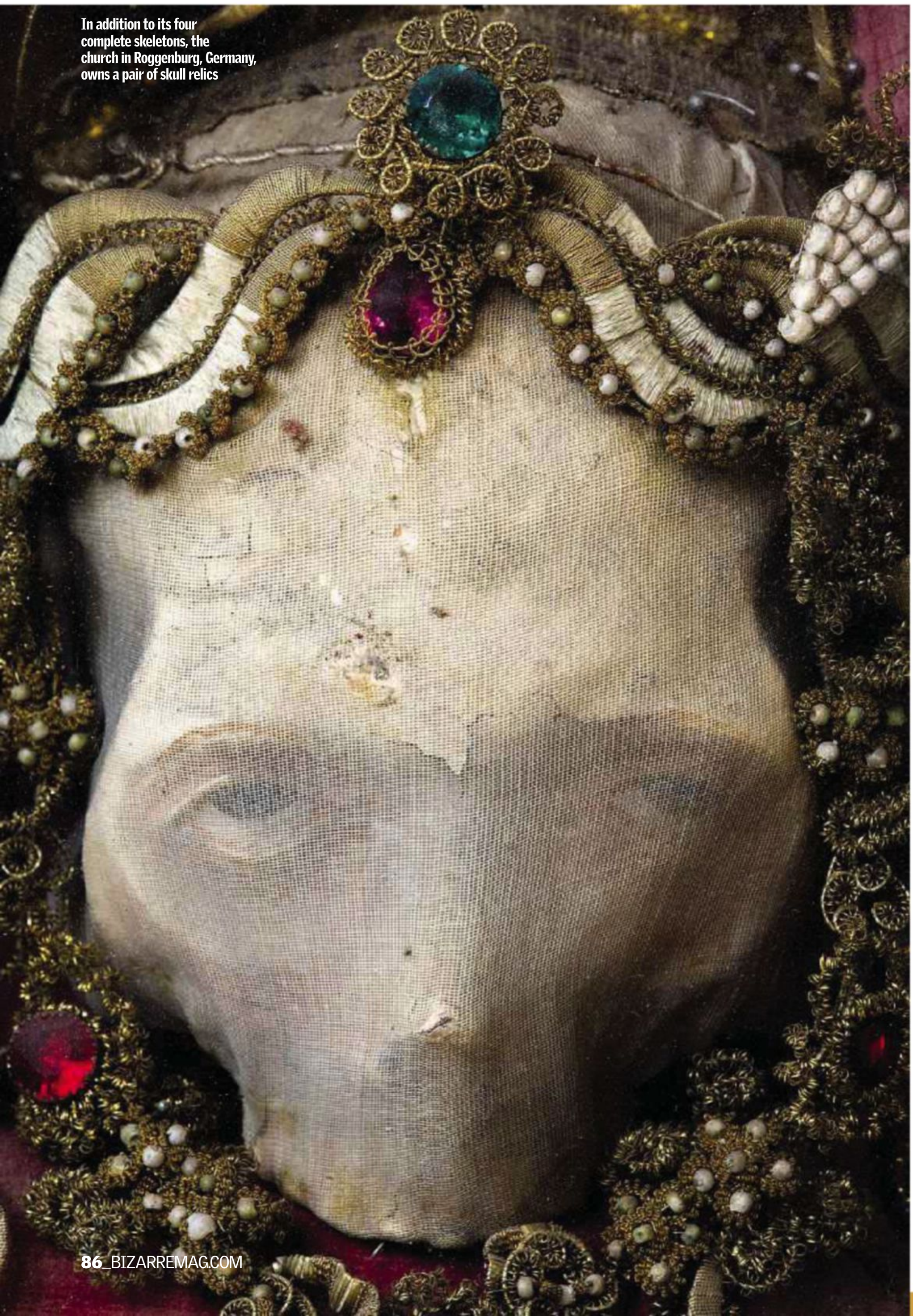
Once believed to be bones of early Christian martyrs, the dazzling Catacomb Saints were brought to 17th century Northern Europe to spread the glory of the Catholic Church. Long since shunned and forgotten, the acclaimed photojournalist Paul Koudounaris made it his mission to return the bones' tragic tales from the "dust pile of history"... →

Resplendent in glittering jewels of red, turquoise and purple, and adorned in a luscious pink gown laced with gold, the skeletal remains of what was once celebrated as St Munditia lie peacefully inside her shrine at St Peter's Church in Munich, Germany. A thin cloth hangs over the skull's ashen face, and two wax eyes peer meekly out from thick golden sockets.

Several centuries ago, local townsfolk would have prayed to this skeleton, believing that its holy presence would inaugurate a new age of peace, prosperity and faith. Now it's is considered little more than a flamboyant relic of an embarrassed Catholic past.

St Munditia is one of an estimated 200 surviving bejewelled skeletons that were distributed to churches and religious houses across Germany, Switzerland and Austria in the 17th century, as the Catholic Church sought to recover from the Protestant Reformation. Re-baptized as saints, these phenomenal art works were said to be the bones of early Christian martyrs, rediscovered deep inside sprawling Roman catacombs in 1578. In reality, they could have been the bones of anyone – Pagans, Jews or Christians – and during the 19th century, as the Church realised its error, many displays were plundered for their spectacular trinkets, and the 2,000-year-old skeletons were discarded with the trash.

Following his acclaimed book on ossuaries and charnel houses, *The Empire Of Death*, Los Angeles photographer / author Paul Koudounaris made it his mission to locate the remaining 'Catacomb Saints' and chronicle their strange, fascinating and sad tales. It took him through quiet rural towns across Germany and, on occasion, into decrepit parking lots and attics. What Koudounaris captured became the new book *Heavenly Bodies*, and he agreed to tell *Bizarre* more about it…



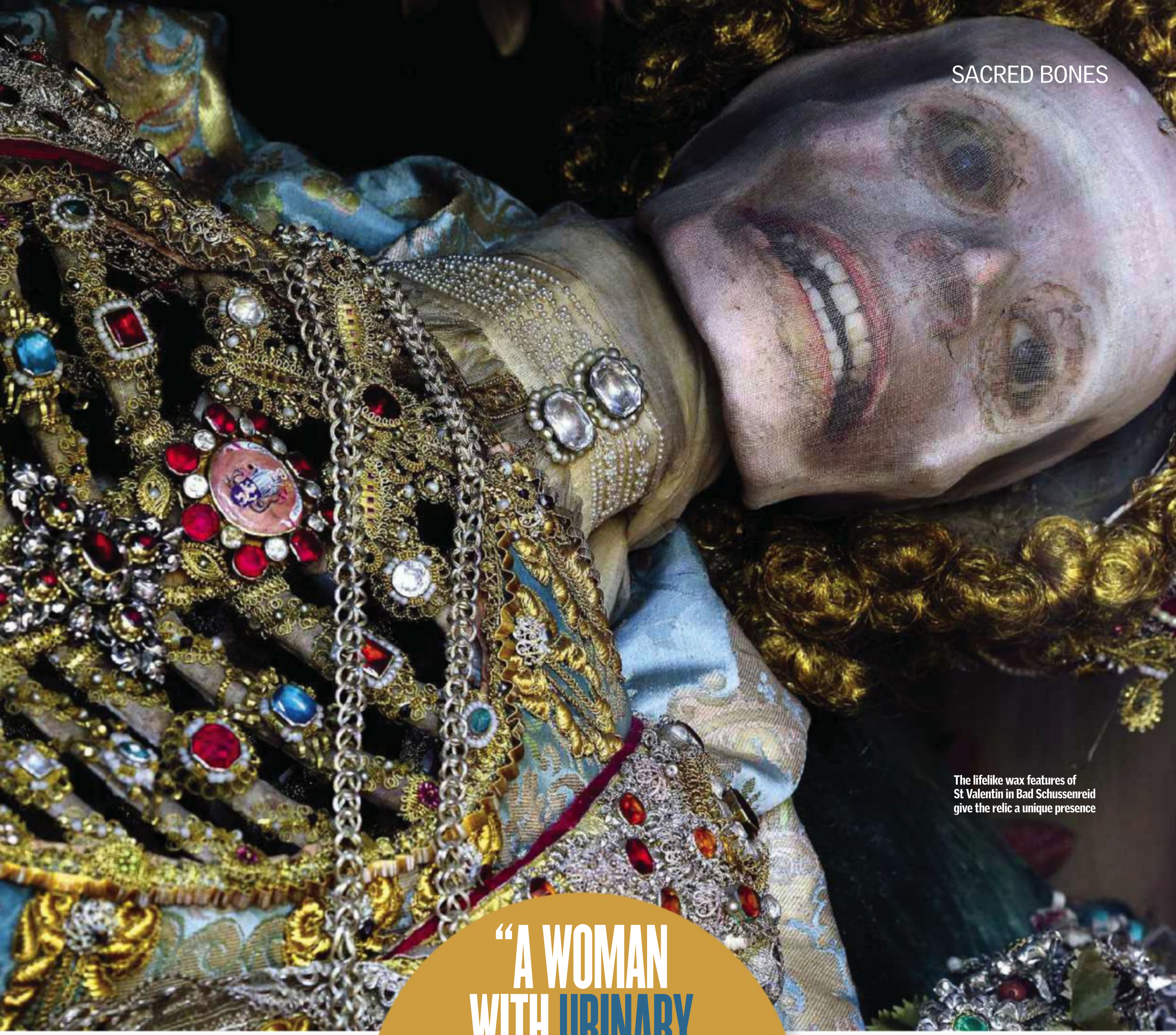
In addition to its four complete skeletons, the church in Roggenburg, Germany, owns a pair of skull relics

How did you first learn about these saintly skeletons, referred to as the Catacomb Saints?

After I finished my PhD in art history in 2004, I was wandering around Eastern Europe, where I began studying old bone crypts. The larger charnel houses (a building where skeletal remains are stored) are well publicised, such as the Bone Church in the Czech Republic, but I begun discovering smaller but equally wonderful charnel houses. In the process, I also became aware of these old jewelled skeletons, which had largely been hidden away. Culturally, the modern world has distanced itself from the dead, but these bejewelled skeletons were once part of people's everyday spiritual lives. I fell in love with them the moment I saw them. I realised I had to present their stories to the world.

Can you give a brief history about who these skeletons were in life and what they became?

During the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century, when Christianity broke off from the Catholic Church, half of Europe left the Church and many of its churches were either converted or vandalised. When the Counter-Reformation happened (starting in the late 16th century, when the Catholics would try to restore their



The lifelike wax features of St Valentin in Bad Schussenreid give the relic a unique presence

faith), the Catholic Church began reclaiming land in German-speaking countries. But it still had to rebuild its infrastructure and it needed impressive relics. Around this time ancient burial catacombs were rediscovered under Rome, which were filled with old skeletons from the beginning of the Christian era, around 200 or 300 AD, when Christianity started getting a foothold in Rome. The Church decided they must be the bones of Christian martyrs, so they exhumed and re-baptised them before shipping them off to restored churches in Germany, Switzerland and Austria, where they were rearticulated and decorated. In reality, Pagans and Jews were also buried in the catacombs, so the bones could have belonged to anyone.

Did it not cause problems as nobody could prove the authenticity of the skeletons?
According to Vatican rules, no relics should have been sent to churches without absolute proof of identity. Yet here they were, relying on circumstantial evidence. They'd look for what they considered telltale traces in the catacombs; if there was a ceramic flask nearby, they'd claim it held blood because it was common for Christians to bury a martyr with his own blood. Another example was finding the letter 'M' on a funerary plaque or somewhere near to a skeleton, which they presumed meant 'Martyr'. But 'M' could have been an abbreviation of the name 'Marcus', the most popular name in Rome. So they were probably just sending these Germanic churches a bunch of people called Marcus! The Church was so desperate to provide relics that it violated its own rules. One account I mention in *Heavenly Bodies* is how psychics were used to go into a trance and label these supposed martyrs.

> "A WOMAN WITH URINARY INCONTINENCE PRAYED TO ST PANCRATIUS AND SHE GOT BETTER"

So, they were Church propaganda?
It was proclaiming that the Catholic Church was back, bigger and better than ever. These skeletons were transformed into incredible relics; life-sized, articulated skeletons covered in jewels, which were designed to awe people with the power of the Catholic Church. But after these burials were rediscovered, many more were discovered over the next century, putting into perspective that these burials weren't special or unique.

You describe the skeletons as the finest examples of art in human form that you've ever seen. Who decorated them?
Predominately teams of nuns, but monks sometimes worked on them too. Only people who'd taken a vow to uphold faith were allowed to handle sacred bones. Nuns weren't trained fine artists, but they had such incredible levels of dedication that they still created these outstanding pieces of art. It could have taken them years. The biggest challenge was rearticulating the skeletons because the nuns had no training in human anatomy, but they were often skilled in weaving or making jewellery. Some of the skeletons are beautifully clothed. →

Records concerning the decoration of St Valerius in Weyarn are incomplete, but similarities in technique with the relic of Albertus in Burgrain suggest that there may be a connection between the two

Did the nuns believe these skeletons were genuine martyrs and saints?
They arrived at the convent with seals from the Vatican, which would have been signed off by the Pope or the cardinal beneath him. If all the documentation said it was a third century martyr or saint, there would be no lingering doubt.

Were the skeletons attributed to real / existing saints, or were new ones invented?
Sometimes they were made up. A lot of them have the same name, such as St Deodatus, which meant 'a gift of God', or 'Maximus' meaning 'strength', so they were often being named after virtues. But many were also named after real saints. To help ensure that these skeletons would be popular when they arrived in their churches, they would often give them names of popular saints. There are multiple Saint Valentines, the logic being that St Valentine is the patron saint of 'love', so who's not going to want to have him in their church?

Did townspeople come to their local churches to pray to these saintly skeletons?
Yes, saints are patrons of certain things. Most of the 'normal' patronages had already been designated to existing saints, so some of these skeletons became patrons for strange new things, typically associated with healing. St Pancratius from Wil, Switzerland, became a saint for urinary disease because a local woman with urinary incontinence prayed to him and got better. There was a skeleton in Germany that was associated with things that smelled bad, so people would place stinking, rotting objects in front of it in the hope it would remove the odour. You can only imagine how horrific it must've been inside the church. Another skeleton was associated with animal infertility. People tried to 'spay' their pet dogs and cats by opening their legs and pressing the animal's groin against the glass with the skeleton behind, then they'd pray for the pet's ability to procreate to be taken away.

St Maximus in Bürglen, Switzerland, has an incredible legend involving a cat. When he was set up at the church, an amber-coloured liquid started pooling on the ground around the bones. It was probably to do with whatever was coating the bones. But because the liquid was gold coloured, locals believed it confirmed the skeleton's holiness. Then one day a large white feral cat was seen wandering into the church. Someone tried to chase it out, but the cat mysteriously disappeared and there was more gold liquid pooling. Locals concluded that the cat must be the embodiment of the skeleton's spirit. So they started worshipping and feeding the cat whenever it showed up in town, and it became treated as a sacred animal.

Given that so few of these skeletons are still 'surviving' or hidden, was it a mission tracking them down?
A lot were in storage. I located St Faustine in a storage unit inside a parking garage in Switzerland, sitting under tattered furniture and pews that the church was throwing away. St Deodatus in Moosburg, Germany, was located inside a wooden box in an altar that had not been opened for 200 years. The church had no idea what was inside the box, and I only tracked it down through a 19th century traveller's account.

This skeleton in Melk, Austria, is presented in a typical reclining pose and holds laurel branch as a sign of victory

St Benedictus was received by the church of St Michael in Munich

St Munditia was transported to the church of St Peter in Munich with what was thought to be an intact funerary plaque from the catacombs. It is now part of her shrine

Detail of the hand of St Valentin in Bad Schussenreid, Germany

When we opened the vault, there he was, a pile of bones. The church allowed me to take him out and reassemble him to take some photos. But most of the skeletons were destroyed in the 19th century. Liquidators would take the jewels and throw away the bones. It's very tragic.

What jewels decorated the skeletons?
A lot of the jewels are fake, but there were very few craftsmen in Europe who could produce fakes of acceptable quality, so they were almost as valuable as real ones – they were just more readily available. The real jewels included amethysts, sapphires, some rubies, some diamonds and a lot of pearls. There was also a lot of gold – more than you'd be aware of just through looking at the skeletons. The wigs are made from gold and silver wire. Human hair is not going to maintain its shape for a few days, let alone several hundred years, but metal will.

Can you put in a modern context exactly how much the jewels were worth on each skeleton?
It's difficult to calculate, but in some cases we're probably talking the equivalent of more than a million dollars to decorate them. Then you've got to include cost of labour and the likelihood they took at least a couple of years to decorate.

Some of the skeletons have creepy wax faces, most notably St Valentin of Bad Schussenried.
Whenever I look at him I always think of Steven Tyler from Aerosmith with that fish pout! The wax faces were used to make the skeletons look more lifelike and appealing, especially in southern Bavaria. Today, we're more inclined to look at an ancient skull as natural rather than a waxen face with cracked head and swollen mouth.

> "I LOCATED ST FAUSTINE INSIDE A PARKING GARAGE UNDER TATTERED FURNITURE"

Was it a challenge getting access to the surviving skeletons to photograph them?
It was easy to get access, but as a photographer this was the most nightmarish project I've ever done. All the skeletons are behind dirty, horrible old glass that could be 400 years old. Often it might take me half a day to find an angle to get a clean shot. But the appeal of doing a project in these countries, especially in the small, rural towns, is that people are very open and accommodating. Often they would just hand me a key to return when I was finished shooting. Coming from LA I found that shocking. But these people were delighted that someone wanted to promote these incredible works of art.

Your book *The Empire Of Death* received a huge cult following. You must be pleased with how *Heavenly Bodies* has taken shape?
I developed a strange empathy with these skeletons – I almost took the project too seriously. Many skeletons had been destroyed, put in storage or in some other way betrayed by the churches that once promoted them. My duty was to salvage them from the dust pile of history and show them to the world. These skeletons were never what people thought: it's unlikely they were saints, they certainly weren't the saints the Church was claiming them to be, and it's very unlikely they were martyrs. Yet they were glorified and then abandoned. No matter who this person was back when he was alive in Roman times, he is now nevertheless a magnificent work of art.

Are there any plans to capture more historical dead for your next book?
I'm working on a book tentatively named *The Memento Mori* for next year. My first two books were predominately in Europe, but I have also been travelling the world photographing burial caves in Asia, burial caves in Africa and the contemporary worship of human bones in South America. It will be my last project concerning death. What we're talking about with these relics and charnel houses is part of the human need to create a connection with the dead. Ⓑ

For more pictures of fallen saintly skeletons, and insight into their tragic history, Paul Koudounaris's book *Heavenly Bodies* is out now, published by Thames & Hudson. Visit EmpireDeLaMort.com to learn about future projects by the author. For those living in the US, the author also has a *Heavenly Bodies* photo exhibition at La Luz De Jesus, Los Angeles 90027, on Friday 1 November, 8pm

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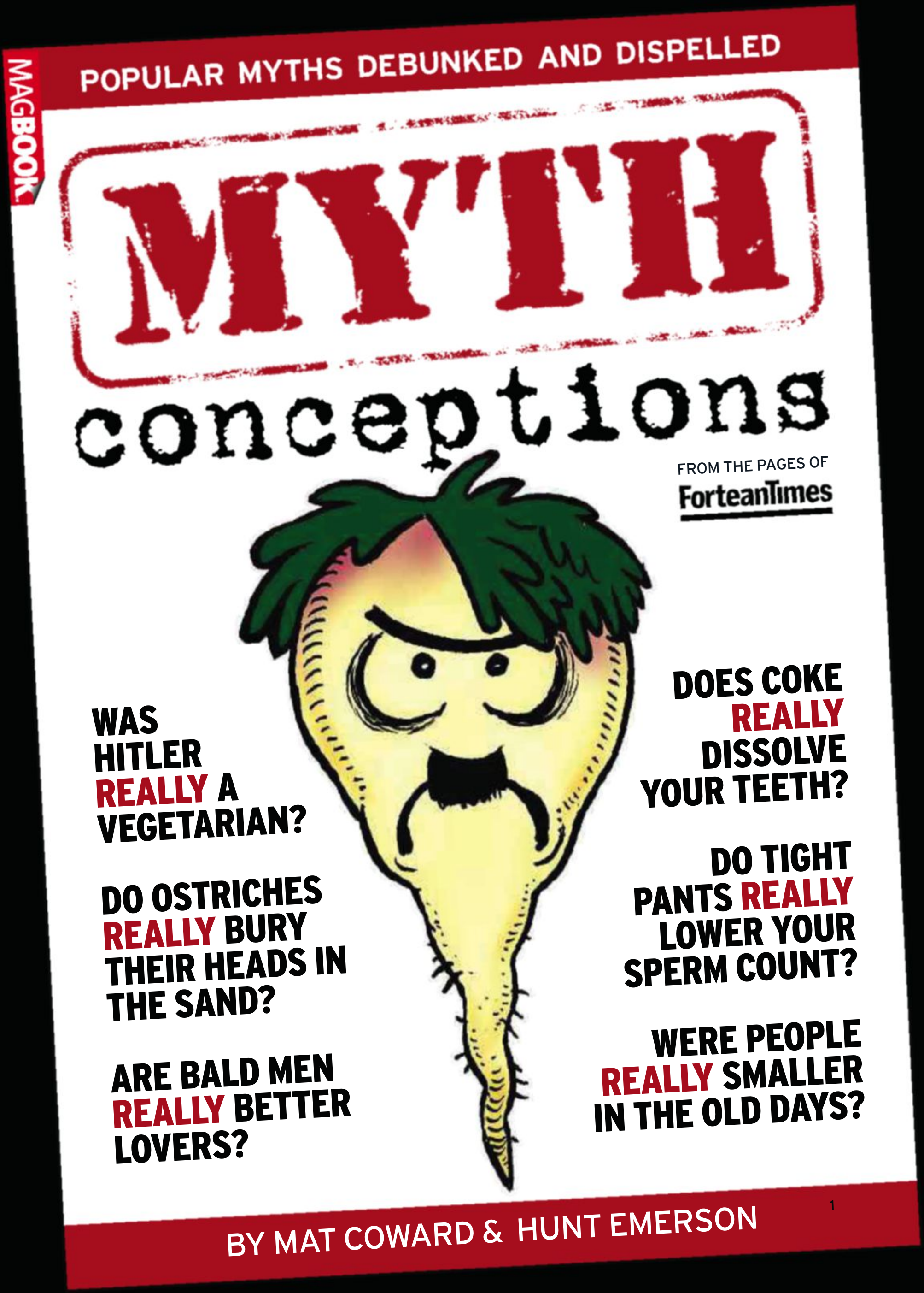

MAGBOOK

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CINEMA 96 **DVD** 100 **MUSIC** 106 **GAMES** 110 **BOOKS** 114

JAW-DROPPING HORROR!

Extreme braces in *The Haunting Of Connecticut 2: Ghosts Of Georgia*! **p99**

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HOT THIS MONTH

Is your spending limited by the icy grip of recession? Then let us help you choose the best stuff money can buy until the next issue of *Bizarre* hits the shelves on **19 NOVEMBER**…

FILM

WE ARE WHAT WE ARE

Pork scratching, anyone?

OUT 25 OCTOBER

The real world has enough batshit-crazy traditions to make the underlying idea of gruesome religious ceremonies believable enough. And, believe us, *We Are What We Are* has a ghastly and macabre ritual at its heart that might just put you off your kebab...

In this stylish and updated remake of Jorge Michel Grau's Mexican original, director Jim Mickle restages the bizarre life of the Parker family in the rain-soaked woodlands of upstate New York.

The family are locked into a centuries-old tradition – with resonances of colonial American history – enforced by a stern father on his children. Standout performances all round make this bleak parable on religious veneration one to savour.

DVD

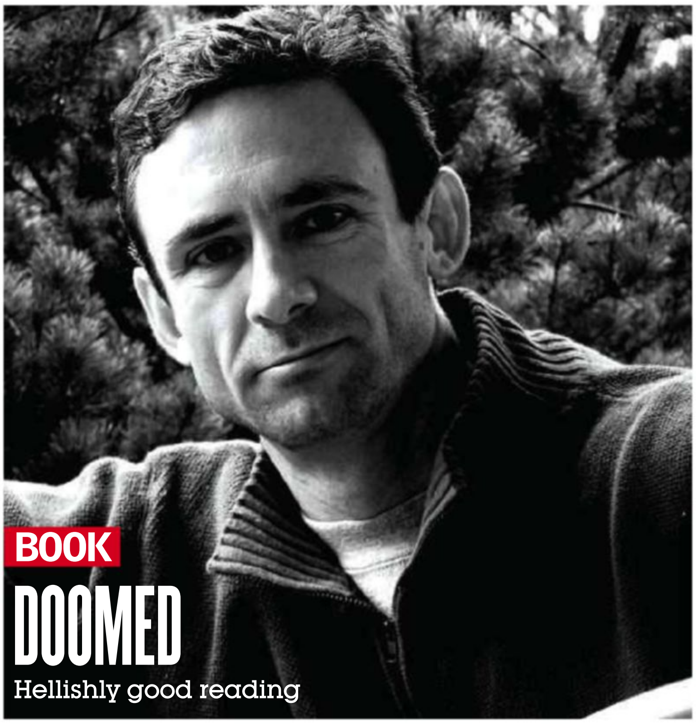
BRING ME THE HEAD OF THE MACHINE GUN WOMAN

Bang, bang, you're… sexy!

OUT NOW

Bullets and blood fly in Ernesto Díaz Espinoza's low budget, high octane sexy shooting fest. And if the image of a statuesque brunette in a kind of black swimwear / toolbelt combo toting a machine gun revs your engine, well congratulations – it's Christmas!

The lady in question is the Machine Gun Woman (Fernanda Urrejola), a deadly assassin. Way too deadly for gang boss Che Sausage (Jorge Alis), who she's out to kill. Sausage has put a gigantic bounty on her head, and an army of greedy hit men are thirsty for blood. Add a hapless DJ as bait and you have one epic Latino exploitation flick.



BOOK

DOOMED

Hellishly good reading

CHUCK PALAHNIUK
OUT 7 NOVEMBER

When we interviewed Chuck Palahniuk for *Damned* back in 2011, the twisted wordsmith revealed that it was the first in a trilogy of warped dark comedies that tell how 'dead' 13-year-old Madison Spencer escapes hell before eventually sealing her seat in Heaven. *Doomed* is the second part in this nu-biblical odyssey, this time seeing Maddie's ghostly form loiter around that horrible, grubby Purgatory known as Earth. The book is filled with Palahniuk's sublimely detailed grossness and blacker-than-black giggles. Be sure to read *Damned* first, though!

MUSIC

MUTATION

World's loudest supergroup?

ERROR 500

OUT 28 OCTOBER

This crushingly-loud, cranium-splattering juggernaut of an album is the result of Ginger Wildheart, Napalm Death's Shane Embury and Jon Poole of Cardiacs (plus guests) deciding to get together to make a right old merry racket. Brutal, bold, experimental, intellectual and, at times, absolutely ingenious in its intensity, it's a ferocious yet refined lesson in extreme music, performed by musicians at the peak of their game – the combined years of experience is phenomenal. Tracks such as 'Muations' and 'Innocentes In Morte' are like some kind of crazed, industrial math-metal from the planet *Aaaaargggh!* Not bad for a new subgenre, eh?

PICTURE: TRUDI KNIGHT

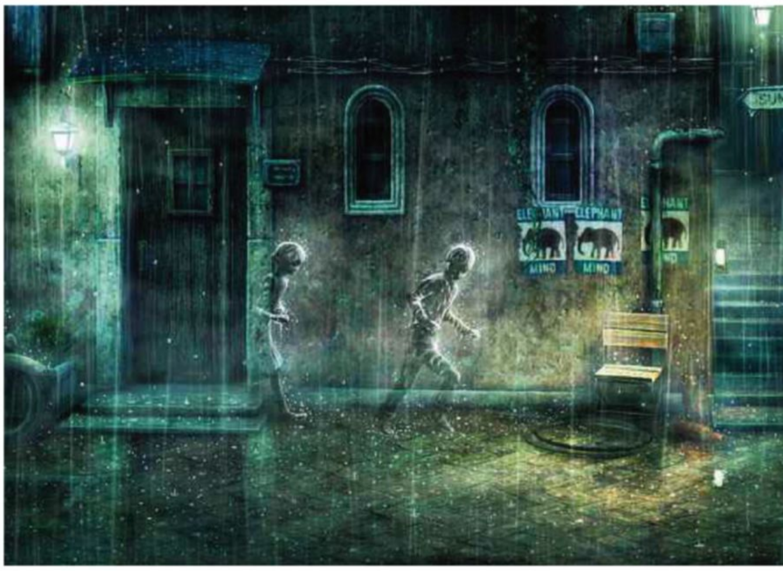
GAME

RAIN

Soaked in melancholy

OUT NOW, **PS3 (PSN DOWNLOAD)**

Achingly beautiful and utterly beguiling, this tale of an invisible boy that can only be seen in the rain is an experience that'll squeeze your heart dry. There is nothing else quite like it on any of the gaming consoles, which is why we especially love *Rain* here at *Bizarre*. The story unfolds as though pondering a dream, depicted mostly in a monochromatic painterly style with splashes of bright colour wherever this becomes symbolic. Though the premise is quite gentle – the search for a soul mate throughout rain-soaked European-style locales – the 'videogame' element is imposed as a tactical battle against nightmarish creatures forcing you to keep the boy out of sight. And this is made trickier owing to obstacles such as sticky mud and noisy puddles. For just under a tenner, *Rain* is priceless.



IN FEAR

Who says the Irish countryside is peaceful…?

OUT 15 NOVEMBER

WITH *IN FEAR*, FIRST TIME feature director Jeremy Lovering takes a 'less is more' approach with a plot so simple it could've been scrawled on the back of a beer mat.

A young couple (*Beautiful Creatures*' Alice Englert and *Filth's* Iain De Caestecker), en route to a music festival, get lost in the backwoods of Ireland while searching for their hotel. As night falls, they find themselves pursued by faceless attackers and fighting for their lives.

The less said about *In Fear* the better; that way, you have more chance of sharing the protagonists' dread, right up until the end credits roll – in much the same way that the actors did during the shoot. During filming, Lovering withheld key details about the script, and encouraged the actors to improvise. It's a tactic that's paid huge dividends, as the sense of immediacy and authenticity in the shit-scared department is far greater than you'd dare to expect from this kind of low-budget movie. And once the nastiness kicks in, Englert and De Caestecker's characters start getting the fear, and Lovering's method allows their emotions to run riot in the most petrified manner imaginable. Which is quite an achievement, considering much of their screen time is spent inside a car.

With a thrill-chill factor that goes off the scale, *In Fear* will make you think twice about taking a late night spin in the countryside – it really is that terrifying. **Billy Chainsaw**

WILL MAKE YOU THINK TWICE ABOUT TAKING A LATE NIGHT SPIN IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

MORE FILMS THIS WAY!

THOR: THE DARK WORLD

Another triumph for Odin's lad…

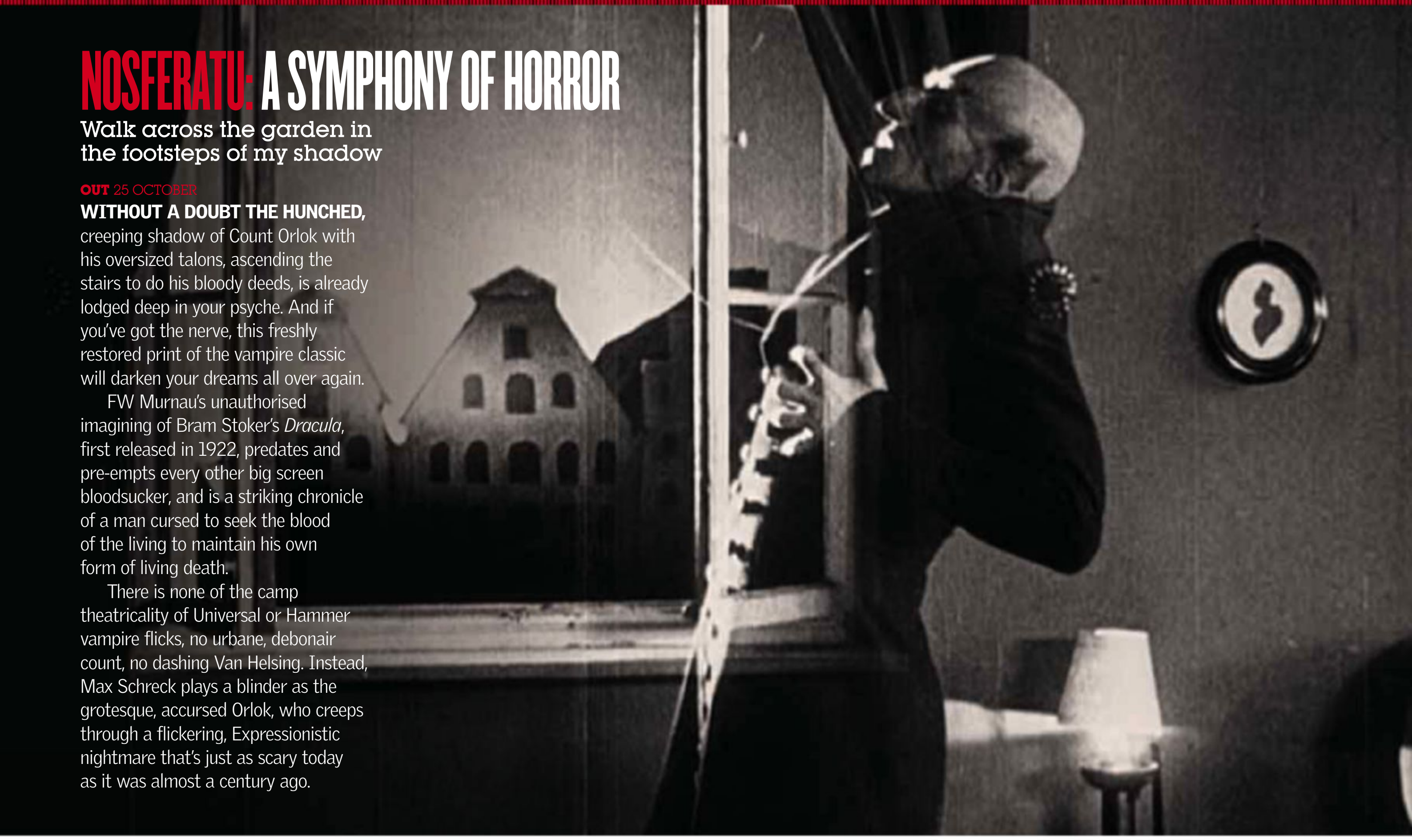
OUT 30 OCTOBER

IF THE EXECS AT MARVEL Cinematic Universe have become accustomed to eating braised koala meat served on plates hewn from giant emeralds, no one would be surprised, right? After all, there's a bottomless pit of entertainment opportunity in the Big M's comicbook archive, and an insatiable desire from consumers that needs to be satisfied.

Given the appetite for Marvel's cinematic product, you might expect a slackening of quality control. But this isn't the case with *Thor: The Dark World*.

A darker, deeper film with more human drama than *Marvel Avengers Assemble*, Thor's latest Hollywood outing is set a year after 2012's magnificent Marvel mash-up, and finds the kingdom of Asgard under threat of perpetual darkness.

Despite *The Dark World*'s epic scale and bombastic action sequences, director Alan Taylor finds time to focus on the emotional and mythological factors that make Thor (Chris Hemsworth) the superhero he is. And with striking performances from Natalie Portman and Christopher Ecclestone, who play Thor's love interest and mortal enemy respectively, *The Dark World* strikes a careful balance where you actually grow to care about the characters, while still gorging on the thrills you crave from big budget comicbook adaptations.



NOSFERATU: A SYMPHONY OF HORROR

Walk across the garden in the footsteps of my shadow

OUT 25 OCTOBER

WITHOUT A DOUBT THE HUNCHED, creeping shadow of Count Orlok with his oversized talons, ascending the stairs to do his bloody deeds, is already lodged deep in your psyche. And if you've got the nerve, this freshly restored print of the vampire classic will darken your dreams all over again.

FW Murnau's unauthorised imagining of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, first released in 1922, predates and pre-empts every other big screen bloodsucker, and is a striking chronicle of a man cursed to seek the blood of the living to maintain his own form of living death.

There is none of the camp theatricality of Universal or Hammer vampire flicks, no urbane, debonair count, no dashing Van Helsing. Instead, Max Schreck plays a blinder as the grotesque, accursed Orlok, who creeps through a flickering, Expressionistic nightmare that's just as scary today as it was almost a century ago.

THE HAUNTING OF CONNECTICUT 2: GHOSTS OF GEORGIA

Going underground

OUT 31 OCTOBER

FRANKLY, WE'RE SURPRISED that any all-American family would choose to move into a cheap, dark old house in the arse end of nowhere these days. It never ends well. However, it seems that the Wyrick family didn't get the memo...

Not long after moving into a capacious mansion in rural Georgia, three of the Wyricks with 'the gift' start seeing dead folk. The spirits in question want something from the bewildered family; something to do with the house's history as a long-abandoned stop for an underground railway... and it ain't pretty.

Debut director Tom Elkins serves up competent psychological horror with an intriguing twist. And as *The Haunting...* claims to be 'based on a true story', it'll press all the right buttons for all you ghost fans obsessed with things that go bump in the night.

KILL YOUR DARLINGS

Looking for an angry fix

OUT 08 NOVEMBER

IT'S UNUSUAL FOR A FILM ABOUT young artists not to touch on their subsequent achievements. Instead, co-writer and director John Krokidas focuses on the origins of that talent; in this case a bunch of students who went on to become leading lights in the Beat Generation.

Standout performances from Daniel Radcliffe (Allen Ginsberg), Dane DeHaan (Lucien Carr), Jack Huston (Jack Kerouac) and Ben Foster (William S Burroughs) make *Kill Your Darlings* a touching and affecting examination of the complex relationships and shared experiences of young adults who later founded a major artistic movement.

DVD REVIEW THE BEST SHINY NEW DISCS TO SQUANDER YOUR CASH ON

LITTLE DEATHS

British anthology shocks with sex and death…

OUT NOW

THIS BRIT ANTHOLOGY DELIVERS dark horror as it displays some of the more debauched and deviant aspects of human sexuality.

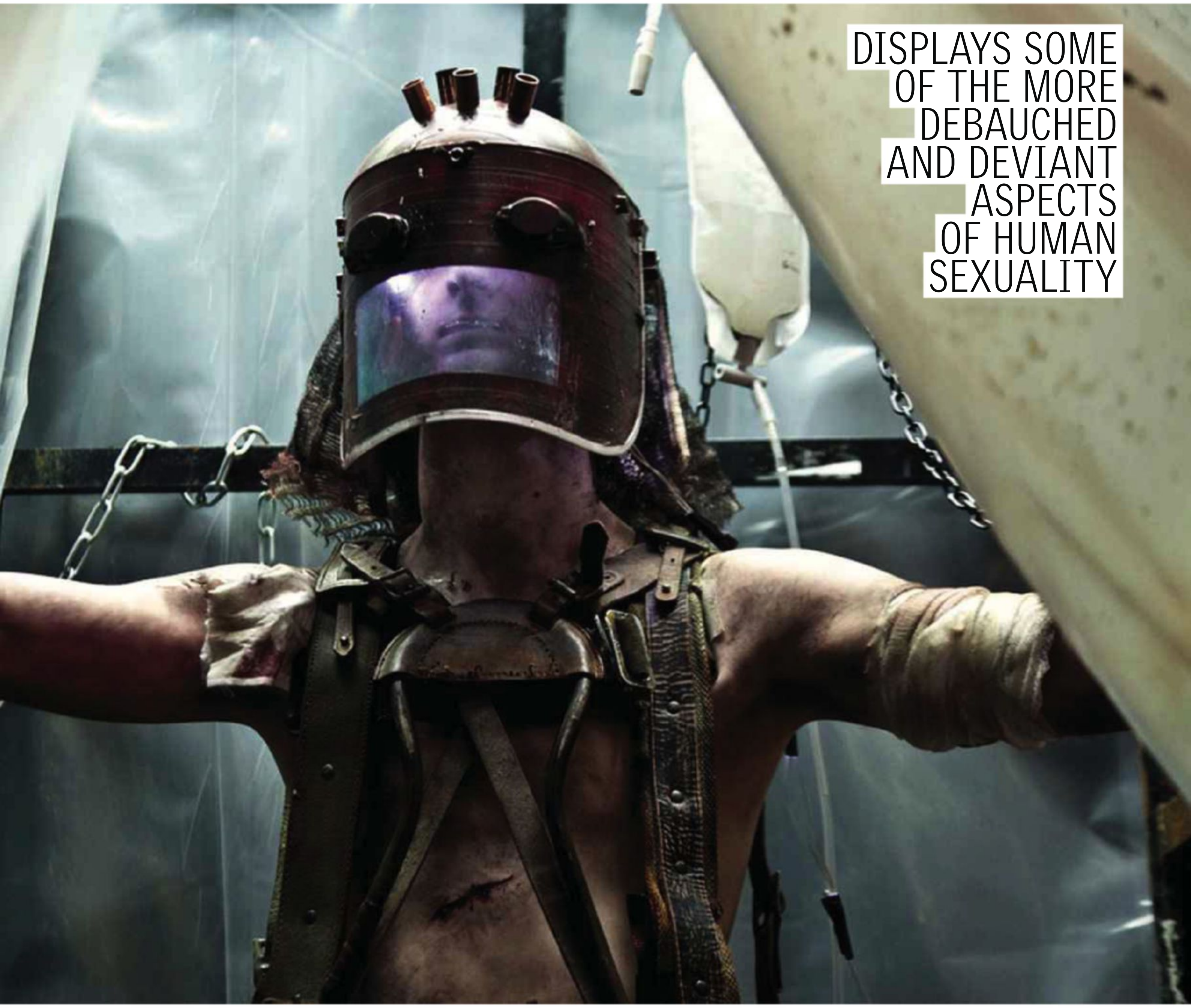
First out of the trap is 'House & Home': written and directed by *The Devil's Business'* Sean Hogan, it's a creepy, unnerving tale that sees a semi-posho couple inviting a homeless woman back to their place for dinner. Naturally, what's on the menu turns out to be more terrifying than tasty.

Second up is 'Mutant Tool'. Written and directed by *Venus Drowning*'s Andrew Parkinson, it proves to be the most demented of the three flicks. In essence, a sleazy slapper winds up being the subject of a mad scientist's bizarre and visceral experiment.

Lastly is 'Bitch', written and directed by *Red White & Blue*'s Simon Rumley. It's a 'every dog has its day' deal, in which a couple partake in a master and servant sex game with canine aspects.

Don't go thinking that *Little Deaths* is a latecomer to the recent spate of anthology horror flicks such as *V/H/S, The Theatre Bizarre* and *The ABCs Of Death*, though, because it predates them all. It also outdoes other anthologies by dealing with harder subject matter. The M.O. here is less about entertainment and more about unnerving viewers – whilst slam-dunking them into a vat of cerebral nastiness. That said, for all its disturbing nature, the film is a fine exercise in unsettling atmospherics, and boasts some killer performances (particularly during Hogan and Rumley's segments).

Ultimately, it's great to see filmmakers sidestepping the obvious and getting experimental with their subject matter.



DISPLAYS SOME
OF THE MORE
DEBAUCHED
AND DEVIANT
ASPECTS
OF HUMAN
SEXUALITY

MORE DVDS
THIS WAY!

THE MUMMY

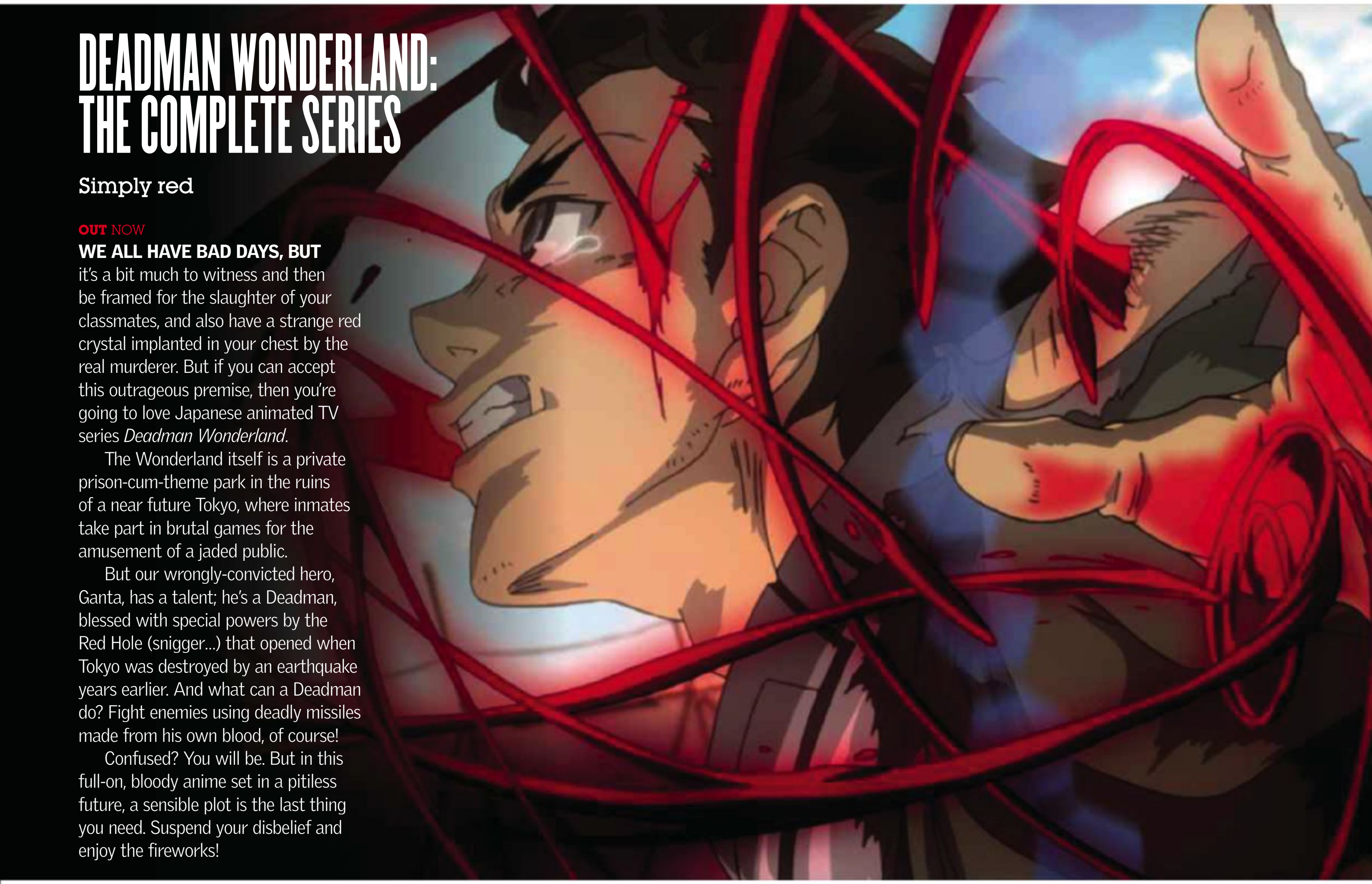
Who calls me from the other side?

OUT NOW

SHAMBLING EGYPTIAN CORPSES have been a horror staple since Boris Karloff's crazed Imhotep popped back to life with plans to resurrect a dead princess in 1932's *The Mummy*. And while Terence Fisher's 1959 film of the same name shares some ideas with the Universal classic, this Hammer version infuses the action with camp creepiness that defines subsequent offerings in the studio's series, and stages the action in dear old Blighty.

After explorers violate the tomb of Princess Ananka and ill-advisedly read aloud the Script Of Life, they resurrect high priest Kharis (Christopher Lee), who wakes up with murder in mind. Three years later the angry mummy is transported to England where John Banning (Peter Cushing), son of the chief despoiler of the princess' grave, becomes the focus for Kharis' murderous rage. And, in an unfortunate twist of fate, Banning's missus is also a dead ringer for Ananka, who Lee's bound and wrapped villain has the hots for.

Overwrought, garish and often unintentionally funny, *The Mummy* is a charming vintage horror flick and one of Hammer's best.



DEADMAN WONDERLAND: THE COMPLETE SERIES

Simply red

OUT NOW

WE ALL HAVE BAD DAYS, BUT it's a bit much to witness and then be framed for the slaughter of your classmates, and also have a strange red crystal implanted in your chest by the real murderer. But if you can accept this outrageous premise, then you're going to love Japanese animated TV series *Deadman Wonderland*.

The Wonderland itself is a private prison-cum-theme park in the ruins of a near future Tokyo, where inmates take part in brutal games for the amusement of a jaded public.

But our wrongly-convicted hero, Ganta, has a talent; he's a Deadman, blessed with special powers by the Red Hole (snigger...) that opened when Tokyo was destroyed by an earthquake years earlier. And what can a Deadman do? Fight enemies using deadly missiles made from his own blood, of course!

Confused? You will be. But in this full-on, bloody anime set in a pitiless future, a sensible plot is the last thing you need. Suspend your disbelief and enjoy the fireworks!

THE BODY

Find the girl, if you can

OUT NOW

THE BODY IN QUESTION IN writer / director Oriol Paulo's chiller is a businesswoman whose remains have disappeared from the morgue in which they were resting. What follows is a stylish whodunnit told through the course of an evening and in dramatic flashback.

Paulo draws on the taut tradition of Hitchcock for his big screen debut, deftly building suspense as the jaded detective in charge of the investigation tries to build a case against the dead woman's shady husband and business partner.

An assured and engaging flick, *The Body* gently sucks you into its twisted world, then kicks you in the face with creepy horror tropes that recall Hammer at its best, and a killer twist you won't see coming. (Well, you probably will now that we've mentioned it...)

INTO THE DARK

I, I will follow

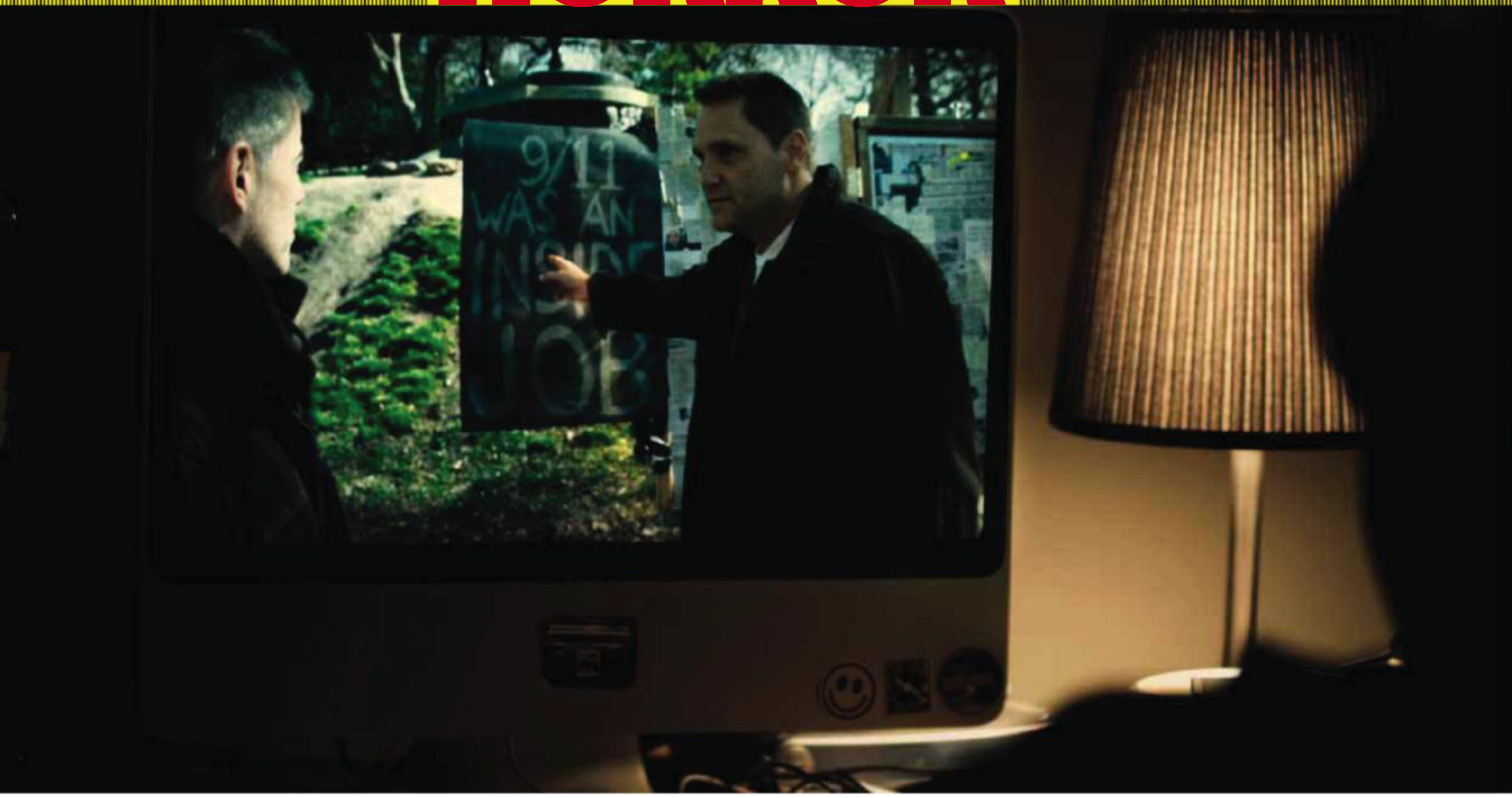
OUT NOW

***INTO THE DARK* OPENS WITH** some bad news for the spiritually-minded; as the heroine's father slips away into death, he claims that there is no afterlife.

With her belief system in a spin, Sophia (Mischa Barton) isolates herself, only emerging from her malaise when a new love called Adam (Ryan Eggold) enters her life. But when Adam disappears leaving a trail of blood in his wake, Sophia knows she has to follow him, even though that leads her to a strange and haunted place.

With *Into The Dark*, *Breaking Dawn* director Mark Edwin Robinson weaves a tight, supernatural love story that liberally mixes romance with thrills, and asks how far you'll go for the one you love.

REAL HORROR SHOW!



BILLY CHAINSAW

All the latest news from *Bizarre*'s free film club, CUT!

THIS MONTH: THE CONSPIRACY

Let's *cut* (pun totally intended) to the chase: For more than three years now, thanks to *Bizarre*, I have organised and hosted the monthly *Bizarre* film club, CUT! The event takes place in London's dungeonesque Horse Hospital, which in Victorian times was just that – a place where ailing gee-gees were sorted out on the operating table. On top of an exclusive *free* film preview, everyone at CUT! gets their first drink *free*, and can enter a *free* prize draw to win loads of DVDs (note the emphasis on *free* here.) All films screened are exclusives in advance of their release either theatrically or on DVD / Blu-ray, and are undeniably the most weird, violent, horrifying, and downright arty fare out there. Our most recent offering – a taut and compelling terror-trip called *The Conspiracy* – finally popped CUT!'s found-footage cherry...

"Faux-docs / found-footage flicks are generally frowned upon, and rightly so in most instances. However, writer / director Christopher McBride and his crew prove that if you've got smarts, there's still life in the dog-eared genre.

"Proceedings get underway with two young documentary filmmakers hooking up with a die-hard, stereotypical conspiracy theorist. The guy disappears, leaving nothing but his research notes, so the lads decide to run with his findings. Of course, this sees their lives spiral out of control, and they find themselves in a face-off with a bunch of affluent cult types determined to instigate a New World Order.

"What's so compelling about McBride's movie is that it's so utterly believable, due in part to riveting performances from Aaron Pool and James Gilbert as the filmmakers. The first act is all dry documentary, using talking heads and busy imagery relevant to the conspiracies being discussed. But McBride's execution of these moments play like an engrossing clue-finding mission, and at such a pace you'll be scared to take a piss break in case you miss something. (WARNING: take a piss and you *will* miss something crucial.) However, once the duo go undercover with hidden cameras, the film takes a sharp turn into bizarredom, and tension levels go through the roof. Think the Masonic shenanigans during the climax of Ben Wheatley's *Kill List*, only up close and personal.

"As debut features go, this is one hell of a calling-card for McBride.

The Conspiracy is available on DVD and Blu-ray from 14 October 2013

IF YOU LIKE *THE CONSPIRACY* YOU MIGHT LIKE *THE DYATLOV PASS INCIDENT* (2013)

Spinning off a real-life incident regarding the inexplicable deaths of a team of Russian skiers in the late 1950s, this found-footage film reveals what happened to a bunch of American students who set out to solve the mystery. While this is a new direction for former blockbuster director Renny Harlin (*Die Hard 2*), he's evidently boned-up on the genre, because the first two thirds of the movie mainly consist of individuals getting hysterical over, quite frankly, not much at all. However, this lack of excitement is rectified once the students come face to face with the fucked-up phenomenon responsible for the Russians' deaths...

FROM RENNY HARLIN DIRECTOR OF DIE HARD 2 & CLIFFHANGER
"TERRIFYING" ★★★★
"SCARY AS HELL"
"SHOCKING" ★★★★
THE DYATLOV PASS INCIDENT
15

WHO'S THIS?

Billy Chainsaw is *Bizarre*'s Film And DVD Editor, and he also runs our regular FREE film club in London, CUT! (cast your eyes right to see what sick treats Billy has in store at the next screening).

BIZARRE presents

CUT!

A FREE MONTHLY FILM CLUB FROM THE GREATEST MAGAZINE ON EARTH!

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HOSTED BY
BILLY CHAINSAW
***BIZARRE* FILM EDITOR**

"A DEBAUCHED, SHOCKING, FULL-TILT BLACK COMEDY!"
★★★★

SEE *BIZARRE*'S FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS

SATANICIDE

Cock rocking with pride since 1998...

SATANICIDE
Old No.1
New Jersey
KICKASS
heather
Sabbath

WTF!?

Satanicide are some crazy dudes hailing from New York, making balls-out cock rock with squiggly solos and high-testosterone vocals. They had a song in the 2011 comedy *Goon* and Moby once bought them a video camera. For whatever reason (did our editor lose a bet?), we've ended up interviewing them. Check out their enthralling metallic sounds at **Satanicide.com** and find their *Jer-Z Knights* doc on YouTube.

Stephen Daultrey

NEW JERSEY
69-CHEV

Q&A DEVLIN MAYHEM – VOCALS
ALEISTER CRADLEY – GUITAR

Where can *Bizarre* readers get hold of your records?
Mayhem: I imagine you'd find them at the police station.
Cradley: Devlin, I think he's referring to our album…
Mayhem: We have an album?
Cradley: There's this thing called the Internet and, last I heard, our record isn't on it. It's totally obscure and shit, and also extremely valuable. I think I have a couple of copies in the trunk of my car. If you want come by I'll see if I can find one and I'll even sign it if you bring a Sharpie and a bag of weed.
If your old records are 'shit' and unobtainable, have you got any better ones in the works?
Mayhem: We've been working on our second album for 10 years now. It will be a greatest hits album. Basically, we are taking our first album and re-releasing it with a new title.
Cradley: I think it's going to be even better than our first album.
At least your music is on YouTube. The comments for your *Jer-Z Knights* documentary are random people repeatedly saying 'goon'. What is the relevance of this?
Cradley: Our song is in this movie called *Goon* (2011). However, we've watched it a bunch of times, and can't hear the song in it. But since we keep receiving royalty cheques, we're not complaining. By the way, Devlin, I think I owe you some of those royalties I cashed…
Mayhem: I don't care about royalties. I only care about getting paid.
Any plans to tour the UK?
Cradley: I'd come to the UK so long as it's not Academy venues. Blokes, your rugs smell like vomit and piss!
Mayhem: They don't like to be called blokes any more, Aleister. I think they prefer African / United Kingdomists.
Is your hair real?
Cradley: In short, yes.
Mayhem: Not sure who's it was before we started using it.
The band name is an interesting one. Does Satanicide imply that you may have killed the devil?
Cradley: I never understood our band name, to be honest. It was kind of a big word that Devlin made up. Devlin, can you explain?
Mayhem: Yes, the answer is 'yes'.
Is it true that you once sacked a bassist for liking Billy Joel?
Mayhem: That's a given.
And yet you do a pretty amazing cover of that song from *Titanic* (also on YouTube)? Is that double standards, or is Joel a bridge too far?
Mayhem: It is pretty amazing, isn't it?
Cradley: Next question, pussy!
Given your hedonistic lifestyles, what's the most messed up thing you've done on drugs?
Mayhem: I once got arrested down in Louisiana, tripping balls on bath salts and four licks of a cane toad. Apparently, in the state of Louisiana, it is illegal to fuck a dead whore!
Cradley: I would have thought that under Louisiana's strict jurisdiction of French civil law, a whore would lack standing to sue in federal court, especially a dead one. Perhaps the executor of the whore's estate could file a claim in probate court.
Mayhem: Totally! Anyway, Aleister was got me off on a lesser charge of breaking and entering… although it should have just been entering because that bitch was broke before I got there.
Have you ever accidentally fathered a child while on the road?
Cradley: The road is no place for a child, we let the mothers father them.
Mayhem: Aleister loves kids! One time I walked on the tour bus and saw him jerking off to a picture of a lost kid on the side of a milk carton. The kid was cute, but I think he thought it was a girl. Anyway, ironically enough, we found that kid two years later, hiding in Aleister's basement. Just think – if he hadn't had looked at that picture on the carton, he would have never recognised him and that kid might never been found.
Do you have any sexual fetishes?
Mayhem: I have a thing for hot chicks with perfect tits and a sweet ass that love to give blowjobs.
Cradley: Is performing fellatio when you're totally not gay, but just for the sake of partying, considered a fetish? Or does it have to be an inanimate object? Like, what if it was covered in a rubber condom?
I'm not sure dude. What's the worst thing you've ever had thrown at you on stage?
Mayhem: My ex-girlfriend.
Cradley: Nothing's worst than a crowd that's so indifferent that they don't want to throw anything at you.
Mayhem: Dude, that's deep.
Which band member can hold the most coins up their foreskin?
Mayhem: We are serious artists. This interview is over!

> "IN LOUISIANA IT'S ILLEGAL TO FUCK A DEAD WHORE"

PICTURE: DALE MAY / DALEMAYPHOTOGRAPHY.COM; HAIR: ISAAC DAVIDSON / WIGBAR; MAKE-UP: DINA DREVENAK; MODEL: JESSE LEE D

GARY NUMAN

The electro god returns with a brilliant, brooding new album… and a remarkably honest interview

NUMAN FACT FILE

- Born on March 8, 1958
- Signed in 1978 as frontman of Tubeway Army
- Massive hits include 'Cars' and 'Are 'Friends' Electric?'
- Developed his 'make-up' look from trying to hide acne
- Married to a member of his fanclub (Gemma O'Neill)
- Our games editor Paul thinks he might be a real robot

PICTURE: LAROACHE BROTHERS (WOOLHOUSE STUDIOS)

SPLINTER: SONGS FROM A BROKEN MIND

OUT NOW

As a progenitor of electro, industrial and all sorts of poppy joy, you may have semi-forgiven Gary Numan for sounding like a tired fart on his 20th studio album. We'll have none of that, thank you squire. *Splinter* sounds dangerously fresh, edgy and even creepily dark in places, the latter trait borne out of Gazza's tricky elevation to fatherhood. Head to **Numan.co.uk** for tour details.

Q&A GARY NUMAN

One of the best gigs I've ever been to was your surprise cameo in London for Nine Inch Nail's supposed farewell tour in 2009…
My wife got in touch with (NIN frontman) Trent Reznor and said, "Gary's going, wouldn't it be a good idea if he performed (old Numan hit) 'Metal' with you?" She secretly pushed it, the little cow! So I got an email from Trent saying, "Yeah, great idea". At the sound check he suggested doing 'Cars' as well. I thought it would be a disaster and that 20,000 NIN fans wouldn't want to see me doing two of my songs. But it was one of the most exciting experiences of my life.

NIN guitarist Robin Finck contributes guitar on four tracks on *Splinter*. Are you best buddies with the NIN crew?
I got to know Robin really well on that tour. Since I moved to LA in 2011, Robin's wife Bianca – who was an acrobat in Cirque du Soleil - teaches our children aerial acrobatics. Their kid also stays at ours a lot. We're all good friends. I was blown away by what Robin did on the record. His playing made a real difference.

> "WE'D GET HAMMERED THEN SPEND TWO DAYS RECOVERING"

Some of the tracks on *Splinter* sound cinematic…
One motive for coming to LA was to evolve into film music. I have been trying to learn new skills, and some of my experiments, like with the strings, ended up on *Splinter*.

Have you been approached about doing any movie work?
I've been scoring an animated film, *From Inside*, which is about a train journey through an apocalyptic world. It's very dark and depressing but brilliant. It's given me a gentle introduction to the craft without having a horrible director screaming at me "that's shit!" Living in LA, I've hung out with people in the film industry and have heard some fucking nightmare stories about working in film. So I'm not sure film work is for me. But I'll see how it goes.

***Splinter* supposedly took seven years to make. Why was that?**
When I tried to start it my wife and I had just had three children in a very short period. So our lives changed dramatically from being just us having the time of our lives, to being parents of three kids. This also coincided with me reaching 50, so I had a right old midlife crisis. I was on antidepressants for two-and-a-half years, pathetic really. My wife also had postnatal depression. At a time when we needed each other, we were useless. The album didn't take seven years to make, it just had false starts.

It's quite a dark record. Were these factors a reason?
Much of the record came from that fucking horrible period. There was shit going on, even before I'd got onto antidepressants. When the children came along it brought out elements in my wife and I that we'd never seen before. I became shouty, moody and stressed. I love the kids beyond belief, but being a parent and the lifestyle that came with it? Fuck that, it was horrible! I felt guilty. But we both came through stronger and are happier than we have ever been.

Is the rock'n'roll lifestyle a thing of the past?
We used to throw parties and everyone would get hammered and then spend the next two days recovering. Nowadays if we throw a party we're lucky to get half a dozen people and then they all have to leave at 11pm because their babysitters have got to go home! I look forward to touring more than ever before because it gives me a chance to live a bit again.

What was it like becoming an icon of The Mighty Boosh? We're big fans on *Bizarre*…
I loved it! I'd seen Noel Fielding doing stand-up before, and it was bizarre but total genius. I couldn't understand how some people didn't get it because I was laughing my head off. Some time later, a friend rung up and asked if I was watching *Mighty Boosh* on TV because they keep mentioning me. I flicked channels and instantly recognised Fielding. I was expecting my references to be a piss-take and was waiting to be embarrassed, but it never happened. When they asked me to appear on the show it was an honour. It's really inventive and clever comedy, and I'm proud to be associated with it.

Have you ever partied with Noel Fielding?
No but we stay in touch a little bit. Actually, I left my phone at a mutual friend's club, and Noel filmed various 'happenings' on it. It wasn't rude stuff, but they were both clearly having an excellent time. I bet Noel is the best person in the world to have a party with!

Stephen Daultrey

MORE NEW SHIT!

Other *Bizarre* must-hears

VOM FETISCH DER UNBEIRRTHEIT

VERTILGER

OUT NOW

At *Bizarre* we like to introduce you to the most unique music from the underground's grubbiest corners. Germany's VFDU are certainly that. Blending lo-fi black metal, krautrock and jabbering, asylum-bound vocals into songs as long as 20-minutes, this is more evil and surreal than watching a demon cheat at poker in a frog onesie from Primark.

DREAM THEATER

DREAM THEATER

OUT NOW

Conceptual metallers Dream Theater have often delivered enjoyably pompous and positive sounds, but they've outdone themselves in the soul-stirring stakes with this one. A triumphant smorgasbord of spiritual melodies, dramatic arrangements and rampant guitar twiddling, the only downer is that it always leads into the flippin' Dropkick Murphys in the office iTunes library.

GARY LUCAS

CINEFANTASTIQUE

OUT NOW

Guitar wizard Gary Lucas' CV includes stints with Captain Beefheart and writing songs with Jeff Buckley. As a movie buff, he also performs one-man live soundtracks to classics such as Spanish *Dracula*, and parts from that, plus other re-imagined scores (notably to Hitchcock and Herzog flicks), appear on this stirring record. Smooth and hypnotic.

MONSTER MAGNET

LAST PATROL

OUT NOW

Like many bands that have been around for 20-odd years, MM frontman Dave Wyndorf has been describing his crew's latest album as a 'return to our roots'. To our swollen ears, it's just another killer MM record. It's got the trippy hooks ('Paradise'), the mind-altering spaciness ('The Duke (Of Supernature)'), and the thunderous riffs ('Last Patrol'). Fans of past efforts should be dead chuffed.

ASSASSIN'S CREED IV

BLACK FLAG

Living and loving the true pirate's life in this epic adventure we'd wager all *Bizarre* readers were born to undertake… And, yes, that is a screenshot!

OUT 22 NOVEMBER
PLAYSTATION 4, XBOX ONE

ENJOY LIFE AS AN 18TH CENTURY Caribbean pirate! Command your own ship and seek fortune amid all the gore-splattered, gritty realism you can stomach.

Though we loved Jack Sparrow in Disney's colourful adaptation of *Pirates Of The Caribbean*, for *Bizarre* readers this was probably all a bit much. True pirates were much more likely to run a sword through your belly than crack drunken one-liners, because reputations were built on fear, not folly. Such sterner stuff is what we're dealing with in this next-generation action adventure.

Our hero is a restless young Welsh farmer's boy called Edward Kenway. Valuing personal freedom above all else, and with every confidence in himself, Kenway catches a ride out of Bristol docks with privateers heading to the West Indies.

This 'get rich quick' scheme escalates into something beyond even Kenway's wild imagination, and he falls in with the most famous pirates of his time. Historically accurate representations of Edward 'Blackbeard' Thatch, James Kidd and Charles Vane welcome Kenway to the fold with the promise of treasures untold.

From this point onwards the banquet of piratical exploits is frankly formidable. And with so many layers of dramatic intrigue and gameplay possibilities, *Black Flag* could keep you swashbuckling for months. The dual-wield sword-fighting sequences are brutal, and the deep-sea diving quests are sublime. Edward's ship, the Jackdaw, becomes an obsession in itself – awesome upgrades helping the crew sink or capture rival vessels that include the Royal Navy's Man-O-War.

We played *Black Flag* on Sony's latest console, the PlayStation 4, and the visuals are to die for. This is a maritime masterpiece you should live to the full.

MORE GAMES THIS WAY!

BEYOND

TWO SOULS

Exceptional star turns from Ellen Page and Willem Dafoe combine with cutting-edge technology, blurring the lines between the gaming experience and the big screen

OUT NOW, **PLAYSTATION 3**

SONY PLAYSTATION IS STARTING to prove how its Hollywood connection, via Sony Pictures, can reap dividends for interactive entertainment on a humble TV. One of PlayStation's most talented studios, Quantic Dream (*Heavy Rain*) here tackles a psychological thriller with supernatural undertones, presenting Ellen Page (*Juno, Inception*) as tearaway child turned CIA agent, Jodie Holmes.

Since early childhood, Jodie has been able to contact an invisible entity she has nicknamed Aiden. Jodie is subsequently taken 'into care' by government scientists investigating such phenomena, among them Dr Nathan Dawkins played by Willem Dafoe (*Antichrist*, *Daybreakers*). *BEYOND: Two Souls* tracks Jodie's progress over the course of 15 years (ages 8-23), from traumatised lab rat to first-class CIA agent on the run.

As the title suggests, Aiden is a disembodied soul, but one capable of exerting physical force in the living world. Jodie is perfectly capable of handling herself in combat, but Aiden's powers go way beyond a good aim and close-quarters combat prowess. Get ready to marvel at flying cars and exploding helicopters, along with the mind-possession of SWAT team members who turn their guns on each other.

Quantic Dream's *Heavy Rain* had a killer twist, after several hours of intelligent performances and unusual (in a fun way) gameplay hurdles. With *BEYOND*, the studio excels itself in terms of visual fidelity and cinematic direction – everything *Bizarre* has seen so far in terms of drama suggests that we're heading for similar chills.

BLACK METAL

EVOLUTION OF THE CULT

Blackened to the end…

PICTURES: THIS PICTURE – GAAHL OF GORGOROTH / GOD SEED BY ESTER SEGARRA. RIGHT TOP - NIKLAS KVARFORTH OF SHINING BY ESTER SEGARRA. RIGHT BELOW – DEAD AND EURONYMOUS, PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN

BLACK METAL

OUT 28 NOVEMBER

The passionate output of *Metal Hammer* contributor and black metal diehard Dayal Patterson, *Black Metal: Evolution Of The Cult* is a 215,000-word behemoth that tunnels deep into the blackened heart of this controversial, oft-misunderstood metal subgenre. Featuring more than 100 interviews and an in-depth exploration of its extreme sounds, ideologies and the people behind it, it's arguably the most complete book ever written on the topic. **Stephen Daultrey**

Q&A DAYAL PATTERSON – AUTHOR

When did you develop a fascination for black metal?
Some older friends, while at school, saw I was into death and thrash metal and introduced me to Gehenna, Emperor, Cradle Of Filth and Gorgoroth. It sounded revolutionary to me – although these bands had the same ferocity that I was used to from Bolt Thrower, Entombed and so on, they also had a new atmosphere and offered a new level of depth, darkness and, for want of a better word, spirituality. Aside from the music, the complex mix of ideologies, extreme personalities and artistic approaches remains compelling.

How misunderstood do you think black metal is as a genre?
I think the meanings (and they are plural) behind black metal are frequently misunderstood and confused, partly because it is often misrepresented by well-meaning journalists and filmmakers who don't have the time, space or background to capture more than a small slice of it (which is usually the early 1990s Mayhem / Darkthrone / Burzum angle). I also think that the fragmented and secretive nature of the genre has meant that people have got entirely the wrong idea about certain things, and in fact writing *Evolution Of The Cult* was an education for me. As a natural result, a clearer and more complete picture appeared to me and (hopefully!) to those who read it.

What's the greatest misnomer about black metal?
That it began in Norway in 1991 / 1992. That's definitely one I tried to dispel through looking in depth at the bands who preceded that such as Venom, Bathory, Hellhammer / Celtic Frost, Vulcano, Tormentor, VON, Rotting Christ, Samael and so on.

How important is religion to black metal?
There are many bands in the book who worship or acknowledge Satan as a force in their lives. For them it is certainly a lifestyle. Of course, there are as many varying opinions of what constitutes the 'true' form of Satanism, as there are Christianity. There's a large spectrum ranging from a more metaphorical view to a purely metaphysical one; some bands engage in ritual, others seem to reflect their beliefs in a more introspective way. It's a broad term, so to say 'Black metal must be Satanic' (as some argue), becomes a complicated statement. It should also be noted that many pioneering bands widely accepted as being black metal (Thorns, Enslaved, perhaps even Mayhem) did not contain Satanic members, as this book explores.

Who were some of the most extreme characters you met?
I think almost everyone in this book could be described as a 'character'. Niklas Kvarforth of Shining, Infernus and Gaahl of Gorgoroth / God Seed and Tchort of Emperor / Carpathian Forest are all pretty extreme people. But there are plenty more who stand out: most of Mayhem, Cronos of Venom, King Diamond, Rob Darken of Graveland, Tom Fischer, Mysticum, the Lifelover guys, the list goes on...

Did you strike up any friendships?
I think people are a bit too quick to claim to be friends with people who are in the public eye, and that's especially true of black metal. I remember witnessing someone (themselves in the public eye, strangely) exclaiming, without any sense of irony, that he was now friends with the frontman of a black metal band because they'd met him for the third time and said frontman had now remembered his name and patted him on the back. Some of the people in this book I don't feel any closer to than I was when I began writing it, even if I feel I understand them better as individuals and artists. But I've got to know many of the people involved in the book on a personal level and that has been very rewarding. And I would even call some members of the bands in this book – for example, Hades, Mysticum and Windir – friends. That is to say we do the things I associate with friends – we talk, meet when possible, party... and I abstain from pestering them with too many musical questions.

If you had to choose five black metal bands as an introduction to a newcomer, who would they be?
I think Emperor, and specifically the self-titled EP and the *In The Nightside Eclipse* album, would be a good place to start – it didn't do me any harm (debatable perhaps) anyway. It's not a cool answer, but perhaps the debut Cradle Of Filth album or second Dimmu Borgir album might be helpful for breaking in those new to the scene, because they are accessible but also majestic. Mayhem has to be there for both musical and historical importance. Same goes for Darkthrone. And then something like Negura Bunget to show what directions the genre is taking in recent years. And then I'd play some Belketre to scare everyone off again!

> "I'D PLAY SOME BELKETRE TO SCARE EVERYONE!"

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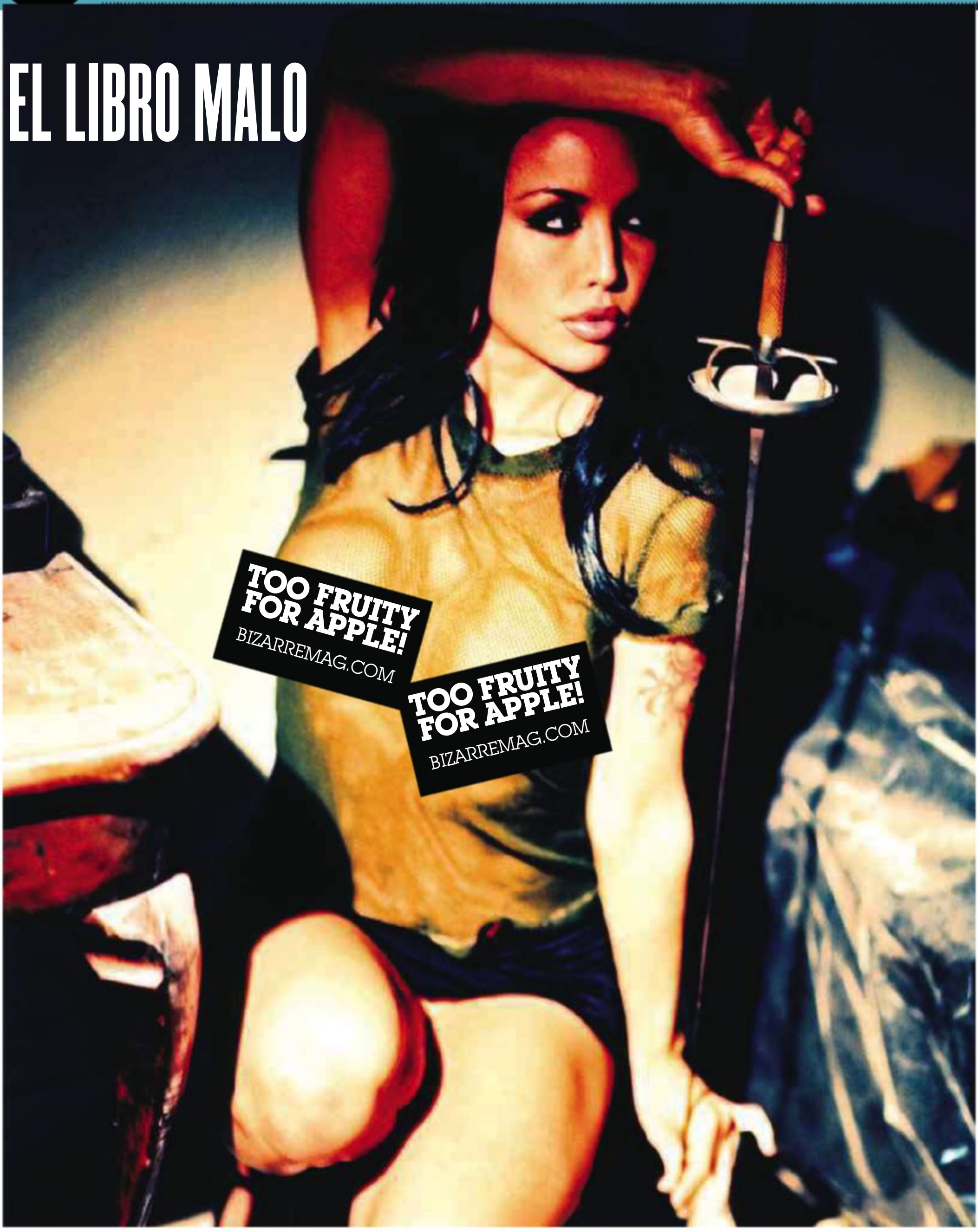
THIS 122-PAGED photo book of erotic female photography is more fascinating than most. Not just because of Ford's warm, arresting style, but because, in addition to fetish favourites such as Masuimi Max, it also includes sculpted bodybuilders. "I had a member-based website called *Power Divas* that featured my work with female bodybuilders," says Ford, who also once published a fanzine on the underground techno scene in 1990s LA. "They are still a favourite subject of mine." *Vixen Obscura* is self-published and financed by crowd-funding.

Visit VixenObscura.com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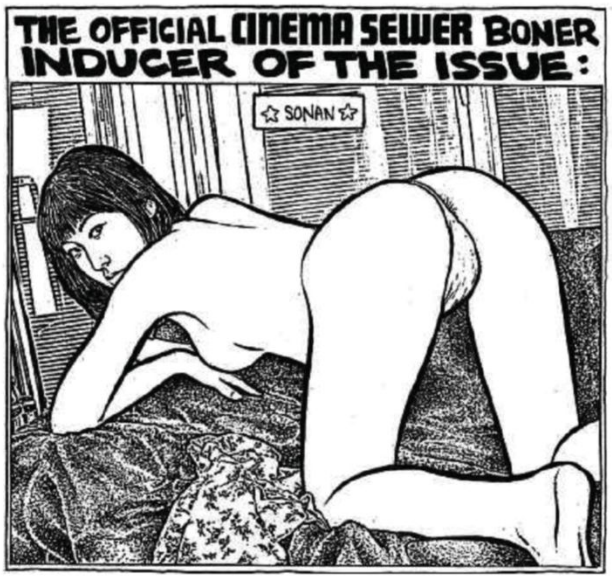
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Bone up on exploitative movie filth

ROBIN BOUGIE (EDITOR)
OUT NOW

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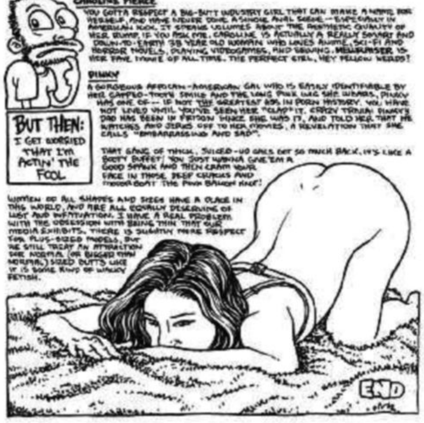
THE FOURTH VOLUME of 'the adults only guide to history's sickest and sexiest movies!' has now been re-read and re-read by *Bizarre* staffers so many times that its pages now resemble ragged 16th century treasure maps. It's randomly filled with hilarious trashy film reviews (*The Mini-Skirt Mob!*), deranged articles ('Gaytham for Statham'!), and explicit illustrations that'll give you nosebleeds. A veritable X-rated lucky dip of gonzo nuttiness!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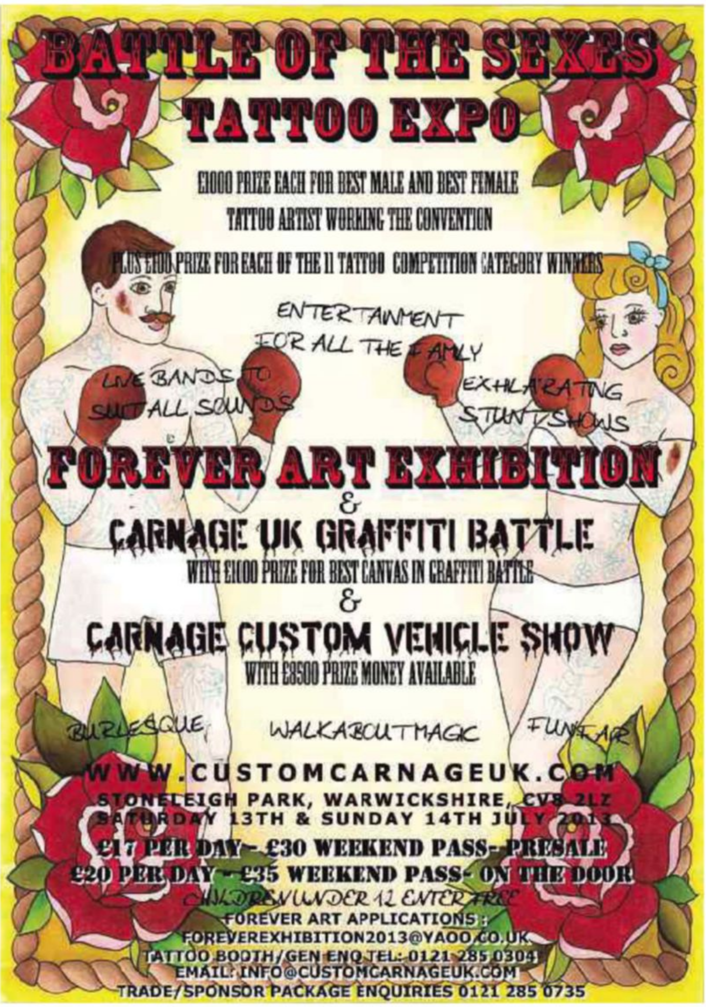
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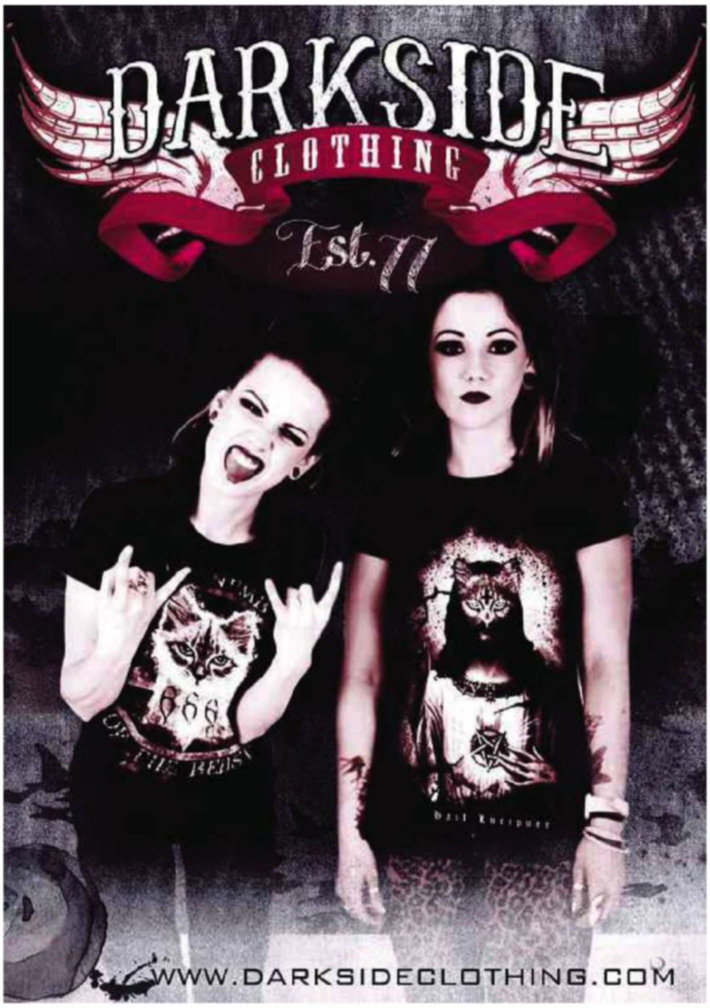

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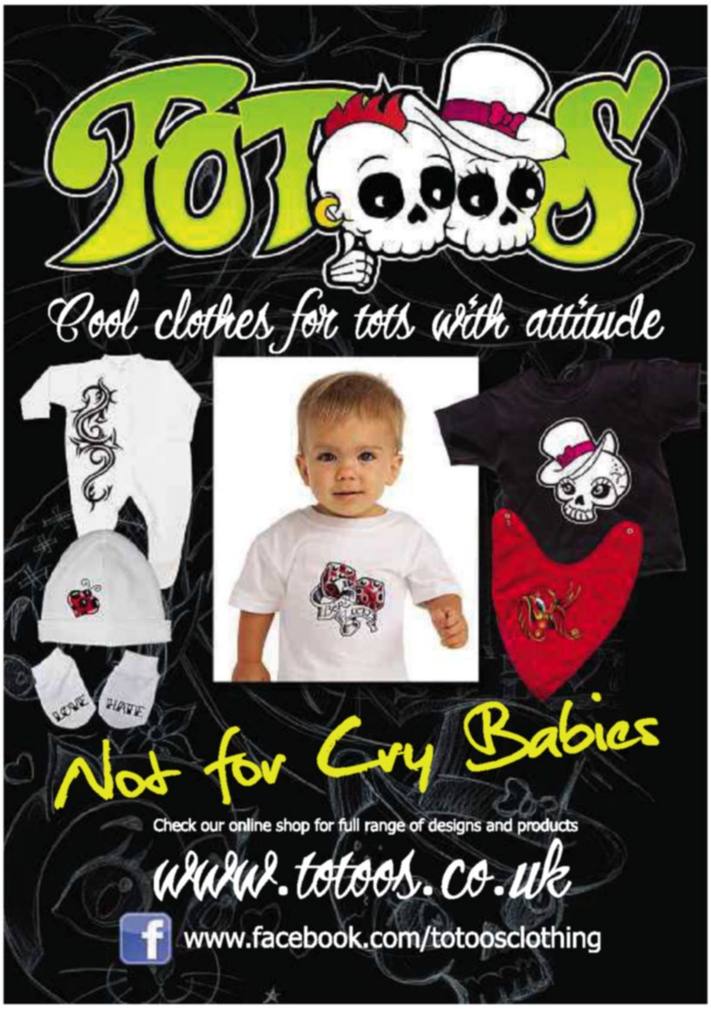
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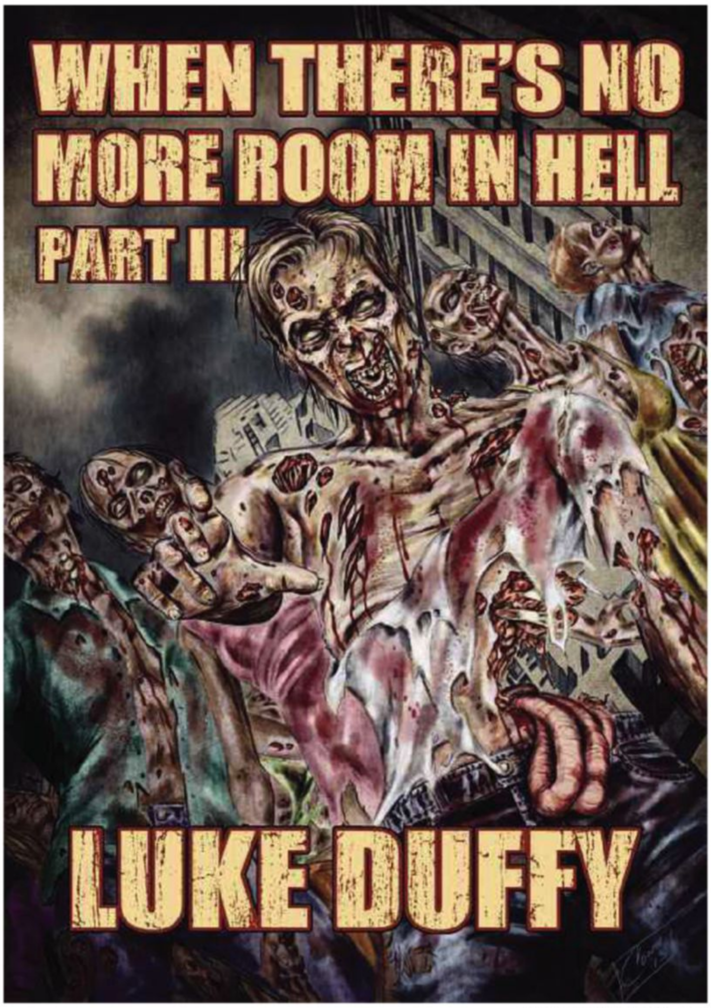
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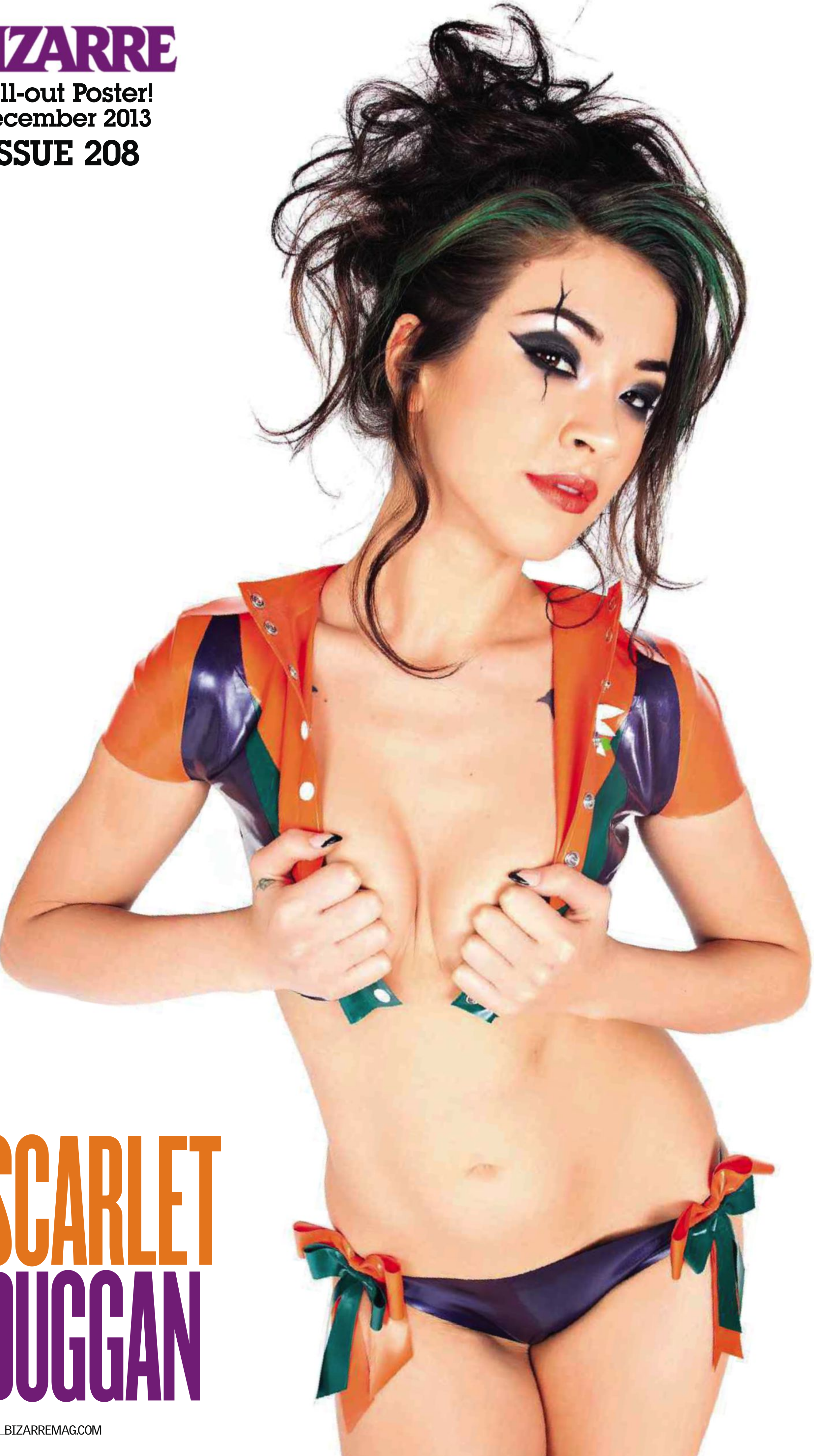

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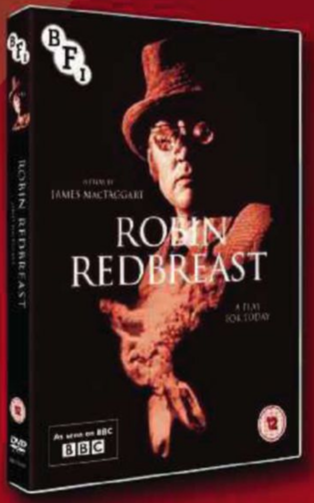
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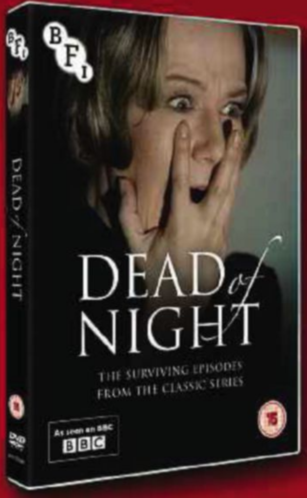
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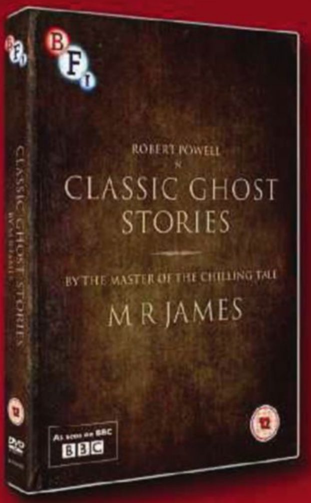
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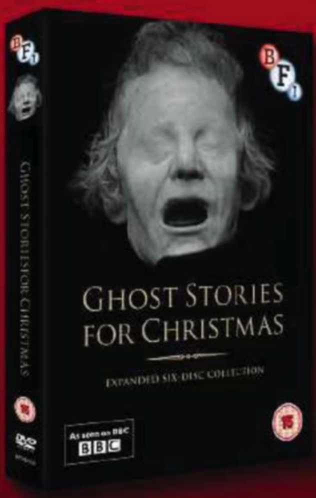
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